

Coolants Aint Coolants!

Repairs can be avoided by understanding the primary causes of radiator corrosion, and in turn implement strategies that save you time and expense.

FOR MOST OF US, the extent of our vehicles radiator maintenance routine involves reaching for the garden hose and filling up the tank with tap water, or occasionally including a dose of coolant. What we think is good practice for our vehicles long term health can actually compromise our vehicles cooling system.

Corrosion occurs when the cooling system is not protected by the coolant's built in corrosion inhibitor. Coolant boosted by this inhibitor; and circulating in contact with the different metals (aluminium, cast iron, copper, brass and solders) that make up your cooling system's components, acts as a barrier against the corrosive properties of high metal counts, chlorides and impurities found in most local water supplies.

In turn, replenishing water alone in the radiator dilutes the coolant concentration beyond what is viable, reducing the products effectiveness in fighting corrosion. Corrosion of these components can create blockages that can then cause partial or total radiator failure. If the problem is not rectified, it can result in serious engine damage. Like wise, administering a 'concoction' of coolant mixtures containing disproportionate ratios or poor quality anti-freeze, anti-boil solutions will create the same problem.

There are two basic methods you can employ to protect your engines cooling system from internal corrosion. You can administer a corrosion inhibitor (conditioner) that is mixed with water, or utilise a high grade antiboil / antifreeze formula which includes the inhibitor product for enhanced protection. This should be considered as only one aspect of routine radiator maintenance and should be carried out in conjunction with the regular replacement of radiator coolant.

It is absolutely imperative that your cooling system is flushed periodically of any old / existing coolant prior to replenishing. This will guard against blockages and/or accelerated corrosion that result from coolant 'concoctions' that circulate in your radiators system and deposit impurities. Natrad stores are equipped to 'Power flush' cooling systems, thus minimizing the chance of this occurring. This procedure is as crucial to the long term health of an engine as changing your cars oil.

Pinpointing the useful life of any radiator coolant is difficult because climate conditions, coolant concentration, vehicle loads, operational speeds, drive time, the corrosive nature of the water used and any loss or dilution of the coolant when topping up all have an effect on how long it will inhibit corrosion. We recommend draining and flushing a vehicle's cooling system with clean water every 12 months or 20 000km, then replenishing it with Natra Antifreeze / Anti boil or Conditioner. And always follow what is specified by the manufacturer for make up and maintenance.

Nip into Natrad



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