Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair Objectives

- List common cooling system problems
- Describe the common causes of system leakage, overheating and overcooling
- Perform cooling system combustion leak and pressure tests
- Replace cooling system parts
- Drain, flush and fill a cooling system
- Describe and follow safe working practices when working on a cooling system
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

Safety First!!!!!!

- Never remove the radiator cap when the engine is hot!
- Pressure can be released causing the cooling to boil and expand very quickly.
- Boiling coolant can cause severe burns and blindness!
1. A COMBUSTION LEAK TEST checks for the presence of gases in the engine coolant.

2. A PRESSURE TESTER is a hand-operated pump used to pressurize the cooling system for leak detection.
Performing a cooling system pressure Test. Never exceed radiator pressure cap pressure!
A combustion leak test is done to check for a cracked part or blown gasket that can allow coolant to leak into the engine oil.
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

3. OVERCOOLING may be indicated by slow engine warm-up, insufficient warmth from the heater, low fuel economy, and sluggish engine performance.

4. COOLANT LEAKS show up as wet, discolored areas in the engine compartment or on the ground.
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

Cut-Away of an General Motors 3.8L (3800) Engine
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

5. FLUSHING the coolant systems should be done when rust or scale is found in the system.

6. A COOLING SYSTEM HYDROMETER is used to measure the freezing point of antifreeze solution.
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

- A 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water protects the cooling system to \(-34^\circ F\)
- The radiator cap usually maintains 12-16 PSI, raising the boiling point of coolant to 250-260\(^\circ F\)
Draining the coolant into a clean drain pan.

All old coolant must be disposed of properly, and not poured down the drain!
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

7. An EXPANSION FREEZE PLUG is installed by tightening a nut which causes the plug to expand and lock in the hole.

8. A LOOSE FAN BELT will slip and may rotate the water pump and fan too slowly, causing the engine to overheat.
Freeze Plug Replacement

A. Drive drift through plug, pry out
B. Clean and coat hole with sealer, install
Chapter 40

Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

9. The THERMOSTAT HOUSING is usually the fitting for the upper radiator hose.

10. To check for a BAD WATER PUMP SEAL, pressure test the system and watch for leakage at the pump weep-hole.
Chapter 40
Cooling System Testing, Maintenance and Repair

Thermostat and its related parts

- Thermostat housing
- Temperature sensor wire
- Sensor wire
- Thermostat
- Engine
- Upper radiator hose
- Heater hose
- Do not overtighten
- Thermostat housing gasket
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