

Coolant Maintenance Tips

Cooling systems are frequently overlooked during maintenance. 40% of all engine problems originate or are caused by inadequate cooling system maintenance. Modern high speed, high performance engines require fully formulated, premixed, glycol based coolants containing formulated additive packages and demineralised water. Make sure such coolants meet required standards to TMC RP328, 329 and / or ASTM D4985, D3306, D6210.

Here are some cooling system maintenance tips:

- Check systems for leaks, correct mechanical function of pumps, belt and pulleys.
- Check for correct thermostat operation. Engines running too cool or too hot are not running correctly, leading to equipment damage.
- Keep coolant levels maintained, using premix coolant. Using premix coolant to top up systems ensures glycol and inhibitor concentration levels don't get diluted. Using water, not only dilutes the chemistry, but poor quality make up water introduces impurities that lead to system contamination and corrosion.
- Avoid dirt ingress into the coolant during handling, storage, dispensing and servicing. Coolant contamination can interfere with the chemistry and system protection of your cooling system.
- Test inhibitor concentrations and glycol levels at every service interval, or at least twice yearly with test strips. Glycol concentration can be more accurately tested using a refractometer.
- Replenish depleted coolant additives to the manufacturer's recommendation. Do not over charge the coolant by adding inhibitor above the recommended levels. This can also happen when chemical coolant filters are changed too frequently without monitoring the depletion of the coolant.
- Check the coolant for visual clues and odour. Investigate any changes to the coolant colour turning turbid, or unusual odours, such as ammonia. These could be early tell tale signs of problems that need attention.
- Start clean and stay clean. When changing the coolant, or during major maintenance / repair events, consider to clean and flush the system with a cleaner. For best results follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

If you have any queries direct them to your supplier or the manufacturer, Austech Chemicals on 07 3204 8511.