

LIVING GREEN NEWS

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In the January and February issues of the LGN we discussed tips on car care and maintenance dealing with tires, engine oil and oil filters. They can be found on our website at www.OnofrioConstruction.com.

In this issue of the LGN, we will continue our discussion on some maintenance tips that should be performed on a regular basis. Your owner's manual usually has maintenance schedules and the frequency recommended. If not, consult a professional mechanic or your dealership.

Once again please note - the information contained in our newsletters is a guide and cannot substitute for the advice of a professional mechanic or authorized dealer. Different cars have different requirements; for information specific to your car consult your owner's manual or call your local dealer. Don't attempt to service your car if you don't have proper knowledge and tools, you can be injured and your vehicle could be damaged. Take your car to a dealer or a repair shop

This issue will be devoted to your vehicle's **Radiator**.

✓ What is the radiator and what does it do?

The radiator takes the hot engine coolant through its many chambers, using a fan that forces cooler outside air through the radiator to reduce the temperature of the coolant. As the car is moving the cooled outside air coming through the car's grill also helps to accelerate this cooling process. Then the coolant continues its journey back to the engine block.

✓ What happens when the radiator is not functioning properly?

A car's engine has numerous moving parts, and where there is movement there is friction. Friction creates heat. Even though motor oil is pumped throughout the engine block to provide some lubrication, it isn't enough to overcome all of this excess heat energy. As a result, parts of the engine become boiling hot as part of normal operations. If anything goes wrong with the radiator itself, such as a leak, a broken hose, or a blockage the operating temperature of the car can reach a dangerous level within minutes. If the coolant flow should be reduced the engine block will not be cooled down and the remaining engine coolant will boil over or worse, lead to a breakdown and

expensive repairs. This is why maintaining a full coolant level is so important, especially during hot weather or long drives.

✓ How do you check the level of coolant and maintain the proper level?

PLEASE NOTE: DO NOT CHECK THE COOLANT LEVEL ON AN ENGINE THAT IS HOT. WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES TO ALLOW THE ENGINE TO COOL.

When an engine is hot, the coolant is under a great deal of pressure and will cause severe burns to the face and body.

1. Pull the hood release lever under the dashboard.
2. Walk around the front of the car, reach under the hood, find the latch and squeeze it. As you squeeze the latch, pull up and open the hood.
3. Look for the plastic reservoir tank, which should at least be holding some residue of coolant, which is normally green (although there are also red versions available on the market). It's often labeled, located near the radiator and has a hose leading to the radiator.



4. Unscrew the cap and add coolant to the "full" line. Coolant is a 50-50 mixture of water and antifreeze, but you can add strictly water if the reservoir's empty and your car is in danger of overheating. Adding just water is a quick and emergency measure only. As soon as possible, take your car to a professional and have them check the system out and add the proper coolant.

This is a good time to see if there has been any damage to the engine.

Adding fluid to an older car that doesn't have a reservoir.

1. **MAKE SURE THE ENGINE IS COOL BEFORE ADDING COOLANT DIRECTLY TO THE RADIATOR. IF THE CAR HAS BEEN RUNNING RECENTLY, WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES BEFORE UNSCREWING THE RADIATOR CAP**
2. Follow steps 1 and 2 above
3. Find the radiator cap at the very front of the engine, near the hood latch.
4. **DO NOT CHECK THE COOLANT LEVEL ON AN ENGINE THAT IS HOT. WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES TO ALLOW THE ENGINE TO COOL BEFORE UNSCREWING THE RADIATOR CAP.** Then rotate and remove the cap, using a rag. When in doubt about whether it's safe to unscrew the cap, use several rags and unscrew the lid slowly.
5. Look into the radiator. If the fluid doesn't reach the radiator's top just below the opening for the cap, add coolant. Again, if you add just water as a quick and emergency measure, take your car to a professional to check out the system and add the proper coolant. This is also a good time to see if there has been any damage to the engine.

✓ **How often the coolant should be changed?**

For "ordinary" antifreeze, the vehicle manufacturers generally recommend coolant changes every two to three years or 30,000 miles. Others say it's not a bad idea to change the coolant every year for maximum corrosion protection -- especially in vehicles that have aluminum heads, blocks or radiators. It is always important to check your owners manual or with a professional for your specific type of car.

In the next issue of LGN we will cover you cars heating and cooling system and its suspension.



Notice – Don't forget daylight savings time begins on March 8th.

Set your clocks ahead one hour.

- In England and the American colonies, the year 1752 only had 354 days. In that year, the type of calendar was changed, and 11 days were lost.

St. Patrick's Day is March 17th.

An Irish Blessing:

May the Irish hills caress you.

May her lakes and rivers bless you.

May the luck of the Irish enfold you.

May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.

NCAA March Madness Trivia:

Final Four History:

- ✓ The first NCAA Championship Basketball Tournament was played in 1939 and was won by the University of Oregon Ducks. Back then, only eight teams were part of the tournament.

Most Successful Final Four Teams:

- ✓ The UCLA Bruins have won more NCAA Division 1 Championships than any other team. The Bruins have won the NCAA tournament 11 times, including seven straight titles from 1967 to 1973.
- ✓ The North Carolina Tar Heels have made it to the Final Four more times than any other team. The Tar Heels have made the Final Four 15 times and have won the title three times.