



CAR CARE CORNER

Year-Round Radiator Maintenance

(NAPSA)—Maintaining your vehicle's radiator and cooling system is important for keeping your car in good working order.

Regardless of the temperature outside, a vehicle's engine produces enough excess heat to quickly damage or destroy the engine if it is not properly cooled by the cooling system. Fortunately, there are a number of ways you can keep your car's radiator and cooling system in top shape. Try these tips:

- Always make sure that the coolant is topped up. If your coolant level is consistently low, the radiator and cooling system could be damaged. Having to top up the coolant more than a couple times per year means that you probably have a leak and should have your radiator professionally inspected.

- Keep an eye on the engine temperature. If you notice the temperature rising more than it usually does, that probably means that your vehicle's radiator isn't performing at peak efficiency.

- Visually inspect the system. Look for corrosion or breaks in the radiator cores, find cracked hoses and rusted clamps, check the gasket on the radiator cap, and watch for drip stains underneath the car.

Replacing Damaged Radiators

If your radiator needs to be replaced, you could save some cash by doing it yourself. Try visiting Radiator.com or stop by one of their locations. They carry a large inventory, allowing same-day delivery or pickup.



Cooling systems are important to a car's health—whatever the weather.

You can also visit the store for tips and guidance on upgrading your coolant system or check out the store's Web site or 800 number and get walked through each step. If you're a bit less than handy, they can refer you to a qualified repair shop nearby.

Regular Checkups

Have a professional inspect your radiator at least once every two years, especially if your vehicle is more than five years old. Checkups should include:

- A thermostat test to make sure that it regulates the coolant flow properly

- A pressure test on the system to make sure it does not leak under pressure

- A fan test to make sure that the engine fan and any other fans are working properly

- A pressure test on the radiator cap to ensure that it will release at the proper pressure.

For more information, visit www.Radiator.com or call (800) 420-6694.