

CHECKING FOR LEAKS IN COOLING SYSTEM

Many of the best ideas are simple ones, Here's another, again from an English source.

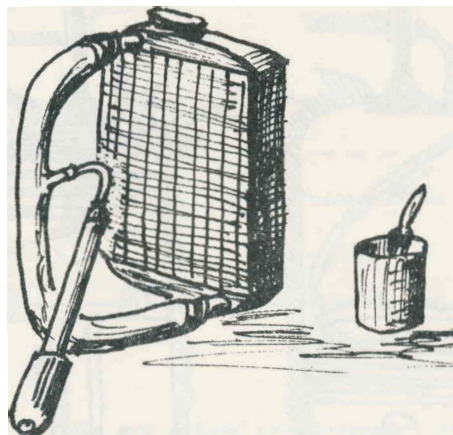
There are smart commercial gizmos for pump-ing up your cooling system and checking it for leaks. However, according to Murphy's Law, leaks only occur when you're a long way from town (where your gizmo is) or on a Sunday afternoon when you can't lay hands on one anyway. Here's the answer.

Disconnect the radiator hoses from the radiator (assuming as is most likely) that the leak is there somewhere. Take an old bicycle tube from your junk-pile (sorry -"in-house resource centre"), cut it opposite the valve, and fit the ends over the hose spigots from the top and bottom tanks of the radiator.

Roll the hose back on itself to provide more thickness, and clamp it on, using the original hose clamps. You can now ,"pump up" the radiator. If it is still in the car, brush it over with soapy water till bubbles indicate where the leak is. If it out of the car, maybe you can immerse it in the bath (no, not the car, silly! You can now effect temporary or permanent repairs. For temporary repairs, you may be able to use the ground pepper trick (see FD 9 (5) Jan/ Feb. 1986). Soldering is the permanent way.

If you want to check the car side of the system, the tube could be similarly attached to the hoses if short lengths of plastic pipe or similar rigid pipe of suitable diameter are first slipped into the ends of the hoses. The beauty of the method is that it leaves your hands free while you work.

For vehicles like Tractions which have un-pressurised systems, you'd have to plug the end of the overflow pipe, and put a seal (a disc cut out of the bicycle tube?) under the radiator:To as to hold the air pressure. Remove these seals before you drive off!!



Two places in Melbourne which will do this work are:

CEBCO

Brake and clutch specialists

39 Railway Ave

Huntingdale.

Ph. (03) 568 0422.

Hydraulic and General Sleeving P/L

5 Beith St

Brunswick.

Ph. (03) 380 4997.

W.G.