



HOW TO CHANGE RADIATOR FLUID/COOLANT



- 1) The coolant should only be changed when the engine is cool – i.e., when it has been switched off for several hours.
- 2) Refer to your service manual to find out where the cooling circuit and filling cap are located. Also find out where the radiator's drainage tap is. The radiator is usually near the front of the car next to the engine. Clean the metal slats on the front and back of the radiator that allow air to move throughout with soapy water and a nylon brush (brush in the direction of the radiator fins to remove dirt and grime)
- 3) Open the filling cap over a container in order to optimally drain the circuit.
- 4) Position a receptacle under the drainage tap at the bottom of the radiator, then open the valve so that all of the old radiator coolant can drain out.
- 5) Wait for 30 minutes for the circuit to drain completely.
- 6) If the recovery tank is completely empty, you'll need to add a mixture of antifreeze/coolant to the radiator.
- 7) Make sure your vehicle has had at least 30 minutes (preferably longer) to cool off, so that the radiator hose is not hot to the touch.
- 8) Remove the radiator cap, checking to make sure the cap's rubber seal is in good shape, and add the mixture to the top of the radiator neck.
- 9) Put the radiator cap back on securely, and add the coolant to the cold level in the recovery tank.



In addition to checking for an adequate amount of fluid, you should examine the condition of the fluid. Coolant that's still working is a pale greenish-yellow color, like clear, slightly thick lemonade. Long-life coolants are orange, like pale orangeade. Some vehicle manufacturers employ a beige-colored fluid. No matter what the color, the key is that it's not brownish or dirty looking and that flecks of rust aren't floating around in it.

If the coolant is in bad condition, it's time to have the system flushed. The most common service interval for flushing the system is every 2 to 3 years, or 24,000 to 36,000 miles. When your vehicle goes longer than that time frame without fresh fluid, your engine may suffer some damage.

So take care of your coolant – and your engine will keep its cool.