

TRUCK COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

PREVENT OVERHEATING & AVOID COSTLY SUMMER BREAKDOWNS

Use this checklist during your pre-trip inspection, especially throughout the summer, to help identify cooling system problems before they lead to engine overheating, roadside breakdowns, and expensive repairs.

■ CHECK COOLANT LEVEL

If: Coolant level is below the recommended mark on the reservoir or surge tank.

Then:

- Allow the engine to cool completely (30+ minutes) before removing any cap.
- Inspect hoses, fittings, and the surge tank for visible leaks before and after adding the coolant.
- Top off using the manufacturer-recommended coolant.
- If coolant continues to evaporate quickly, schedule a cooling system pressure test.

■ INSPECT COOLANT CONDITION

If: Coolant looks rusty, cloudy, discolored, oily, or contains debris.

Then:

- Inspect the cooling system for signs of contamination.
- Flush and replace coolant according to your manufacturer's recommended maintenance interval.
- Always refill with the coolant recommended by your engine manufacturer.
- **Rust or mud-colored coolant suggests internal corrosion. If oil is present in the coolant, have the system professionally inspected immediately.*

■ INSPECT RADIATOR & CHARGE AIR COOLER

If: You notice dirt, bugs, mud, road grime, damaged cooling fins, or restricted airflow.

Then:

- Remove debris with low-pressure compressed air or water, directed opposite of airflow.
- Clean the radiator and charge air cooler using an approved cleaning solution.
- Make sure airflow is unrestricted through the grille and cooling package.
- Damaged fins should be evaluated by a technician.

■ EXAMINE HOSES & CLAMPS

If: You notice cracked, soft, swollen, bulging, brittle, leaking, or loose hoses and clamps.

Then:

- Carefully tighten loose hose clamps, if appropriate.
- Replace damaged hoses immediately.
- Repair leaks before they result in coolant loss and engine overheating.
- Continue monitoring coolant levels after repairs.

■ TEST FOR WATER PUMP & THERMOSTAT PROBLEMS

If: You notice

- Fluctuating engine temperatures
- Frequent overheating
- Coolant leaking near the water pump
- Grinding or whining noises
- Poor cab heater performance

Then:

- Schedule a cooling system inspection.
- Replace a faulty thermostat or water pump as soon as possible.
- Do not continue operating the truck if overheating continues.

■ MONITOR ENGINE TEMPERATURE

If: The engine temperature begins climbing above the normal operating range while driving.

Then:

- Reduce engine load, whenever possible.
- Turn off the A/C if temperatures continue to increase.
- Watch the temperature gauge closely.
- Pull over safely before the engine overheats.
- Allow the engine to cool before inspecting the cooling system.

■ WATCH FOR COOLING SYSTEM WARNING SIGNS

If: You notice

- Steam or smoke from under the hood
- Sweet coolant odor
- Puddles underneath the truck
- Heater blowing cold air
- Engine temperature consistently running high
- Frequent overheating
- Engine warning light

Then:

- Stop as soon as it is safe to do so.
- Allow the engine to cool completely.
- Inspect for coolant leaks or obvious damage.
- If you cannot identify the source of the problem, schedule professional service immediately.

■ PREVENTATIVE COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

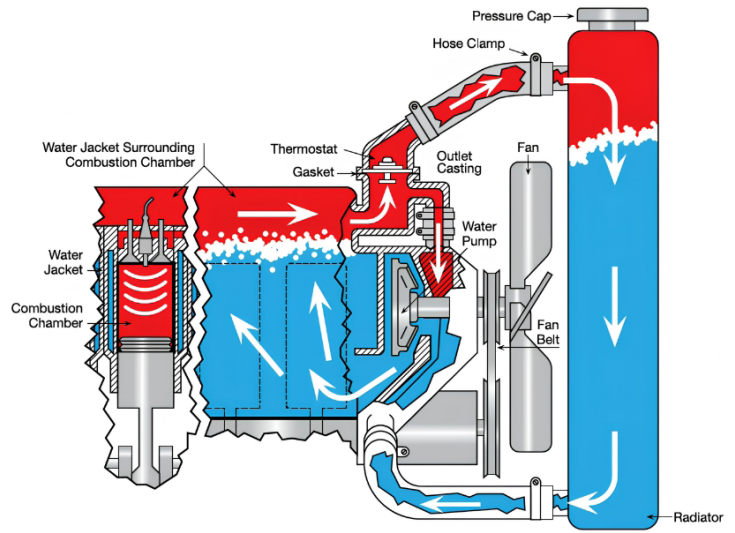
If: You're performing routine preventative maintenance.

Then:

- Check coolant level during every pre-trip inspection.
- Inspect coolant condition regularly.
- Examine hoses, clamps, radiator, and surge tank for leaks and wear.
- Clean the radiator, charge air cooler, and A/C condenser whenever airflow becomes restricted.
- Replace coolant according to the manufacturer recommended interval. Typically every 3-5 years or 300,000-750,000 miles, depending on the coolant type and duty cycle.
- Perform a complete cooling system inspection annually, especially before the hottest months of the year.

■ SEASONAL PREVENTATIVE COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

- **WINTER:** Prevent against freeze damage
- **SPRING:** Remove winter debris and inspect components
- **SUMMER:** Protect against summer overheating
- **FALL:** Prepare for freezing temperatures



■ CALL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

If:

- You cannot locate the source of a coolant leak
- The temperature gauge remains high despite normal coolant levels
- Your truck repeatedly overheats
- You suspect thermostat, water pump, radiator, or internal engine damage

Then: Schedule cooling system service immediately. Early diagnosis can prevent major engine damage, reduce downtime, and save thousands in repair costs.

CONTACT OUR SERVICE CENTERS TO SCHEDULE COOLING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Coopersburg Kenworth
Coopersburg, PA

Liberty Kenworth of South Jersey
Swedesboro, NJ

Liberty Kenworth of Bristol
Bristol, PA



↑ SCAN TO SCHEDULE ↑
MAINTENANCE