

# AutoShack Weekly Tip



- If you've ever had to deal with engine overheating before then you may know one of the causes of overheating is a bad thermostat.
- A thermostat allows coolant to flow into the engine to cool it down if it gets too hot.
- It also prevents coolant from entering the engine to prevent the engine from becoming too cold. The engine must run between an optimum range of optimum temperatures.
- If the thermostat doesn't allow the coolant to enter the engine when it's hot, **OVERHEATING** occurs.
- If the thermostat allows the coolant to enter the engine too soon (before it's hot), a condition called **OVERCOOLING** occurs.
- Most people are aware of the dangers of overheating but not so much the dangers of overcooling.
- Some uninformed mechanics even remove the thermostat from the vehicle when it comes into the shop for overheating. But this paves way for overcooling.
- In today's tip we discuss overcooling and its negative effects.

- Impact of overcooling

1. Overcooling causes poor fuel economy because engine temperature won't be high enough to burn the fuel efficiently.
  2. Fuel contains carbon. Ineffective burning of fuel causes carbon deposits to form in the engine and reduces engine life.
  3. Overcooling causes accelerated exhaust system rust. This is because some of the unburned fuel will make it into the exhaust system and keep it moist. Moisture causes rust.
  4. Optimum engine temperature is essential for good engine performance. If the engine isn't operating at the temperature it was designed to operate at, it will perform poorly.
  5. During the winter the heater won't work properly if you have an overcooling issue.
- Next time you have an overheating issue and your mechanic offers to remove the thermostat rather than replace it, you know what to do.
  - It may seem like he is saving you money now but it will cost you in expensive repairs later.

A thermostat controls engine temperature by regulating coolant flow.



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- A majority of the tip topics are suggested by others based on their experiences.
- Consider helping others to benefit from your experiences by suggesting a topic for our tip bank based on your car troubles, experiences or observations.

# CREDITS

✓ Thermostat photo: [www.mesaautosshop.com](http://www.mesaautosshop.com)