

**When driving your car, there is the chance an issue may happen that may cause a few components in your car to overheat.**

**You will want to recognise and act on these problems quickly, overheating can cause serious and costly damage to your engine.**



**What will cause overheating?**

Your car will more likely overheat when the outside temperature is very hot, but other problems may cause your engine to boil over even when the weather is cold.

If your car overheats when the weather is cool, then it may be because the coolant level is low and needs replenished. Or the fan belt may have come loose or perished, also, there may be leakage in the cooling system itself caused by worn clamps or hoses.

If you can't find any leaks and the water and coolant levels seem to be fine, then that may indicate the engine has a faulty thermostat. In this instance you will need to get the thermostat replaced.

Other instances where overheating is present are coolant flow problems such as blocked radiator, faulty water pump or cavitation in the hoses.

The most concerning instance of an over heating car is a faulty head gasket which can leak coolant into the combustion chamber. This scenario is the most expensive to fix.

## What to do?



If your car is overheating, turning on the heater and blower will transfer heat from the engine to inside the car. It is not so pleasant for passengers but will do wonders for the overheating engine as there is more surface area to be cooled down.

If the temperature gauge is rising to dangerous levels while you are at the traffic lights put the car in neutral and raise the engine revs a little. This will increase the coolant flow and cause more air to be drawn through.

It may still get worse where you think the car could be about to boil over, in which case pull over safely to the side of the road.

Once safely pulled over, open the bonnet and leave the car for a while to allow the engine to cool off. DONT ever open the radiator cap until gauge says temperature is at lowest level possible, this will take some time, so wait a while until you add more coolant.

If all else fails and you cant control the temperature then your best bet is to call a tow truck. Do not drive your car if the gauge is in the red, you will destroy your engine beyond repair.

Even when your car is running fine one important piece of advice is to make that temperature gauge your "best friend".