

How old is your anti-freeze?

With winter just around the corner, some of us are more prepared than others.

Some folks have had their cord wood stacked for months, their snow blower tuned and their snow tires switched over, but still aren't fully protected where they need to be most: under the hood of their car or truck.

Some people mistakenly believe that they can simply "top off" the antifreeze/coolant in their vehicle with water or antifreeze/coolant concentrate alone. This can be a recipe for disaster if not done as recommended in a vehicle's owner manual. Regularly scheduled cooling system maintenance, which may include "flush and fills" and should include checking antifreeze/coolant level/concentration for required top offs, is a typical minimal requirement for all car and truck preparation for winter season.

Regrettably, some people fail to take the proper precautions to protect their vehicles, and winter's extreme temperatures can cause them to pay dearly for their oversight.

Ethylene glycol based antifreeze and good quality soft water, the major component of the coolant, keep cooling system components protected from freezing at very low temperatures, prevent boil-over during hot summer months, and guard from rust and corrosion year round. If people wait too long to change their antifreeze/coolant, the used coolant could harm their cooling system components and compromise freezing, boiling and corro-

sion protection. Similar to having a pipe freeze in your home, the cooling system components in your car, including hoses, heater core, water pump radiator, and even the engine itself, can burst or break, leading to expensive, but preventable repairs, or in some cases engine replacement.

"The antifreeze in people's cars is something most people forget until disaster strikes," according to Megan Currie, Prestone product manager. "The good news is that it's easier than ever to get it done and get it done right with our "All Makes, All Models" antifreeze/coolant, which is available as a concentrate or premixed for top-off convenience."

The proliferation of new products has given more choices to consumers, but at the same time has confused many people who aren't sure if what they find at their local store is appropriate for their vehicle. Prestone takes the uncertainty out of the buying process by introducing an "All Makes, All Models" antifreeze/coolant that is compatible and works with antifreeze/coolants in virtually all cars and trucks on the road.

Prestone also sells an antifreeze/coolant tester that is easy to use, and helps drivers determine the concentration and quality (visual) of their antifreeze/coolant.

More antifreeze tips are available online at www.Prestone.com.

—News Canada



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CONSUMERS SHOULD READ THE FOLLOWING: Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. Limited time offer to qualified retail customers on approved credit (O.A.C.) available through FinancialLinx to lease a new 2007 SX4 with manual transmission, model number H3N83N7, 2007 Grand Vitara with manual transmission model number LLN81S7. Total lease obligation of \$14,437.28/\$22,503.67, including down payment of \$2,410/\$4,565, or equivalent trade-in, with 20,000 km total mileage allowance (\$0.10/km for excess mileage). First month's lease payment is required at lease inception. Lease payments include Destination and Delivery (\$1,095/\$1295 CARS) This offer does not include license, insurance, acquisition fees of \$350, administration fees, PPSA of \$60 + taxes and any applicable taxes which are due at lease inception. Certain dealers may lease or sell for less. See participating dealers for details.

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