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Readers write about HUMMER Cooling System Problems

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- RR: How do I know if my Hummer needs a new heater core?

If your heater core is shot you will get hot sweet antifreeze smelling vapor fogging up your windows. This means your heater core has probably developed a leak. Do not pressure test a heater core over 15 psi, you will distort the tubes and stress the structure.

- RR: If I turn on just the fan in my Hummer, it's hot air that blows out. Not quite like having the heater on but close. Why?

If you have just the fan on you won't get any really cool air. If the air is warmer than the outside you could have a leaky heater valve. This valve routes hot water to the heater core when you call for heat. It should be off when you call for cool. If it's leaking hot water into the heater core it could negate some of your A/C. Other problems could be problems with the control vents or the control head. Very early trucks use mechanical cables to control the vents. In the 95 era the controls were electrical. There were lots of problems with the

electrical actuator on the heater valves. All the newer valves are vacuum controlled. You should check the vacuum pump for 22" hg.

- RR: The air conditioner in my Hummer does not blow real cold. We charged it up and it just blows kind of cold. Why?

When I re-charged my A/C, the local shop had a new product called ICE 32. I was skeptical at first, but they added ICE 32 to my A/C system and it made for a SIGNIFICANT difference in A/C performance. The A/C blows freezing cold; colder in the front than before and freezing for the rear HVAC. Other owners report that alternate refrigerants don't really help.

Make sure all the air control doors are operating properly. You might want to seal up all the duct work with silicone and duct tape.

For pre 97.5 trucks: Unfortunately the A/C in your truck is marginal at best. It will probably never really blow cold. Make sure that you have the proper amount of R134 in the system; too much or too little will cause degradation in the cooling. AMG had a heavy duty A/C upgrade (I had this on my 96) which consisted of a new condenser, electric fans for the top of the cooling stack and a new drier. This somewhat increased the capacity of the cooling system. If I remember, this option was around \$600. I don't know if they even offer it anymore because AMG has completely scrapped the old style systems. The only real fix is to get the new retrofit HVAC system for your truck.

One experienced Hummer tech said that if you install manual shutoff valves on the heater core, your A/C will work much better. He claimed that hot water will get into the heater core even though the heater valve is closed.

Radiator Reporter wants to hear what's on your mind. Feel free to e-mail us at: info@narsa.org to submit a question or article suggestion. We value your patronage and your opinions.