

Back To Basics

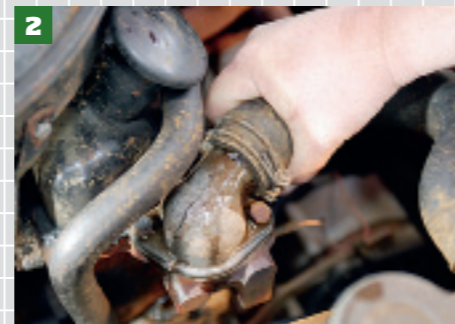
Flush Your Cooling System

Don't let your classic Ford boil up on the way to a show this summer. Give the radiator a good flushing to restore its cooling performance.

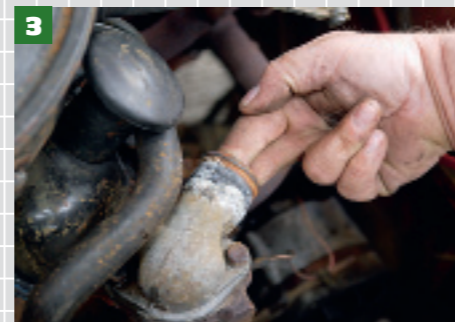
Words Matt Black Photos Jon Hill



1 With the engine cold, and a container (such as an old washing up bowl) positioned underneath, remove the radiator cap, then loosen the jubilee clips holding the bottom hose to the radiator and water pump, and carefully prise the hose off. Let the coolant drain completely.



2 Then disconnect the top hose from the thermostat housing and the top of the radiator. Inspect both hoses carefully, and if found to be cracked or brittle, now's the time to replace them.



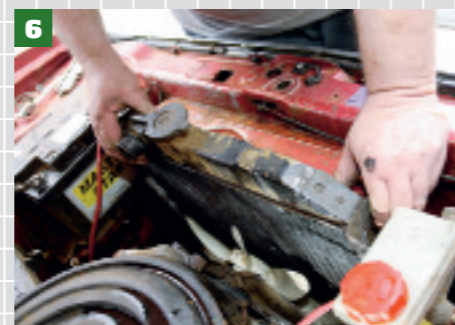
3 Stick your fingers inside the thermostat housing, and if it feels partially blocked, remove it and give it a good clean with a wire brush. You'll need a new gasket.



4 If fitted, unbolt the cooling fan shroud and carefully remove it. You may also need to unbolt the fan to allow enough room to withdraw the radiator.



5 Then unbolt the radiator. There are usually four tapered bolts holding it to the front panel.



6 Carefully remove it...



7 ...And inspect for any damage.



8 Now stick a hosepipe in the top and allow water to run through the radiator for five minutes or so. Once done, turn it upside down, put the hosepipe in the bottom outlet and repeat the process.



9 Refit the radiator...



10 Along with the top and bottom hoses, replacing any worn jubilee clips with new ones where needed.



11 Slide the heater control to the hot position. This will help prevent any air locks when you refill the system.



12 Now refill the system, remembering to add the correct quantity of antifreeze (usually around 15 per cent of the total coolant capacity).



13 Leaving the radiator cap off, run the engine for a few minutes to allow the coolant to circulate. Switch off and give the bottom hose a few squeezes to get rid of any potential airlocks, then top up as necessary. Refit the cap and you're done!

INFO
Tools: socket set, screwdrivers, wire brush, hosepipe
Time taken: 30 minutes
Cost: £5 for antifreeze