

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR TRUCK OVERHEATS IN TRAFFIC

INITIAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES



LIFT THE CABIN

After you've pulled over, turn off your engine. Unlatch the hood to expose the engine bay, but don't try to fully open it until it has cooled off a bit. Releasing the latch of your hood can help speed up the cooling process, although you still have to wait for around thirty minutes or so.



COOL DOWN THE RADIATOR

Once your engine has cooled off enough for you to touch the hood release, pour water over the radiator or place a damp towel (if you have any) over the radiator cap. This will lower the temperature even more. Never ever attempt to remove the cap when the engine is still hot; boiling liquids will spray out of the radiator if you do so.



INSPECT THE RADIATOR

Now that the engine is cool enough, remove the radiator cap and inspect the radiator if you're low on coolant. At the same time, inspect the coolant reservoir if fluid levels are low. If they are, more likely than not, there may be damaged parts. It's best to call a towing service to take your car to the nearest mechanic.

CHECK FOR DAMAGED PARTS



RADIATOR

The radiator is responsible for dispersing heat and cooling down the coolant that runs through the radiator. Blockages may disrupt the flow of coolant or compromise the radiator's ability to disperse heat. Inspect the radiator and check for any damages to the fins. Dents on the surface of the radiator fins may be a cause for poor cooling. Any malfunctioning parts around the radiator may also cause overheating. Even if the radiator looks fine, it would also do you good to look at the surrounding parts.



OIL PUMP

A bad oil pump is not a very common cause for overheating, but you should never leave it out of the equation. A failing oil pump will lose the ability to lubricate your engine's internal components, causing low oil pressure which could lead to higher engine temperatures. A failing oil pump will usually show no signs and symptoms of failure until your engine fails completely.



THERMOSTAT

The thermostat, which is usually located at the end of the bottom radiator hose, is responsible for regulating the flow of coolant throughout the cooling system. When your truck reaches a certain temperature, this valve opens to allow the cooling system to circulate the coolant and closes when the temperature rises. This keeps your engine at the right operating temperature. A seized thermostat may cause overheating when the valve is shut, leaving it unable to open. To identify if you have a seized thermostat, you can touch the hose located at the top side of the radiator and the bottom hose. If the top feels hot while the bottom is completely cool, it's likely that you have a broken thermostat. This needs to be replaced right away.



WATER PUMP

The water pump is a belt driven component that continuously moves coolant through the hoses and passageways in the engine. The higher your engine speeds, the faster your water pump will work. Modern engines use water pumps made with plastic internals. So when your engine overheats, the immense temperature of the fluids that pass through your water pump may damage the plastic components, leading to disrupted fluid flow.



HOSES

A very common cause of overheating is a leak in your hose. If your engine overheats, inspect all the hoses of your cooling system. If you find any leaks, have these hoses replaced right away. Anything that can manipulate the circulation of coolant may cause your engine to overheat. Sometimes, hose leaks are caused by other failed components since these rubber hoses can only withstand so much heat.



ENSURE PROPER COOLANT CIRCULATION

The thermostat, which is usually located at the end of the bottom radiator hose, is responsible for regulating the flow of coolant throughout the cooling system. When your truck reaches a certain temperature, this valve opens to allow the cooling system to circulate the coolant and closes when the temperature rises. This keeps your engine at the right operating temperature. A seized thermostat may cause overheating when the valve is shut, leaving it unable to open. To identify if you have a seized thermostat, you can touch the hose located at the top side of the radiator and the bottom hose. If the top feels hot while the bottom is completely cool, it's likely that you have a broken thermostat. This needs to be replaced right away.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Trucks for sale in the Philippines come with the best components to ensure reliability. But, modern engines, no matter how state of the art, may still be prone to overheating if not taken care of. If you are ever in a situation where the engine temperature needle hits the red mark, shut everything off and call for help. Ensure that your truck from Foton Philippines never misses any preventive maintenance. This way, your truck's engine will work properly for years, or even decades to come.

REFERENCES:

<https://www.farmers.com/learn/plan-and-prep/what-to-do-when-your-engine-overheats/>
<https://www2.safetyserve.com/articles/what-to-do-if-your-car-overheats/>
<https://blog.esurance.com/what-to-do-if-your-car-overheats/>
<https://eliteautorepairtempe.com/blog/my-car-is-overheating-what-could-be-wrong---what-do-i-do->