

Cooling System Information by Scott McGilvray

T-Birds have a well deserved reputation for overheating. Volumes have been written on this subject. No definitive cure has been found. Here is a little more information.

Our cars were built before recovery systems were invented. A recovery system involves adding an overflow reservoir near the radiator and attaching a tube from the radiator to the reservoir. Now the radiator can be completely filled rather than leaving space for the coolant to expand. The only trick in this system is the radiator cap. The picture shows the underside of two caps. The one on the right is the factory style which allowed air to escape as the engine warmed up and allowed air to return as it cooled. The cap on the left operates in a similar manner but also seals at its very top so that it will pull coolant back in from the overflow reservoir. The second seal is visible at the very top of the cap covering the brass spring which helps lock the cap in place.



From time to time owners will install a recovery system and use their old radiator cap. Now you know why this won't work.

A little trivia since we have the space. There were three parts on all three years of T-Birds which were made by AC. AC is known to be a major supplier to General Motors, Fords arch rival especially during the highly competitive 50's. The three parts were the radiator cap, the fuel filter and the fuel pump.