



GET YOUR BUS READY FOR SUMMER

If you haven't already checked out your bus for summer, there is more to getting it ready than checking the radiator coolant. Here are six tips that will keep your bus running smoothly when the mercury climbs.

- Change the oil more often than recommended, especially if you carry a heavy load and make frequent stops.
- Examine hoses for deterioration that might include a whitish powder near the clamps. If you find one bad hose, replace all of them to play it safe.
- Clean all debris and bugs from the radiator screen. To reveal any coolant or oil leaks that may develop during the summer season, clean the outside of the engine. Scrape away corrosion from battery posts and connections, and clean with baking soda solution.
- Replace air, fuel and other filters more often than recommended, especially if you travel in dusty areas. For better visibility, clean bugs and dirt from outside light lenses. Also, check the windshield wipers and light bulbs.
- Inspect tires and brakes. Remember, you can skid on sand or wet pavement just as easily as on ice. One of the most dangerous times to drive is the first rain after a long dry spell. That gentle rain turns the mixture of oil, gasoline, and dirt that have collected on the road into dangerous, skid-producing mush. If your brakes pulsate, grab, make unusual noise or take longer to stop your bus than normal, have them attended to immediately.
- Of course, to prevent overheating, check the coolant level, fan belts and water pump. If you are doing any other engine work at this time, consider replacing the pump if it's seen a lot of miles.

Okay. You've done all those things and the needle on the temperature gauge is creeping toward the danger zone. Here are some things you can do to prevent your bus from over heating, or at least postpone it until you are able to stop for assistance.

- Turn off the air conditioner so the engine won't work so hard.
- Although this next step will add more perspiration to your passengers, turn the heater on if it works from engine heat in order to dissipate heat from the engine and allow the coolant to circulate in a larger area.
- When you come to a stop, accelerate just a little to keep the engine off idle. That allows the water pump and fan to run more efficiently.
- Carry spare jugs of water and coolant. Be sure to check hoses again if the bus overheats.
- If all else fails and the engine is dangerously overheating, pull over to a safe spot and open the hood or engine enclosure to further cool the engine and to notify others that you are stalled and need help.

Article taken from Glaval Gazette, March 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

IAHSA Spring Conference	May 10, 2006	Ames, IA
CTAA Expo	June 3-9, 2006	Orlando, FL
Hoglund Open House	July 26, 2006	Marshalltown, IA
Bus Con 2006	Oct. 23-25, 2006	Chicago, IL



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