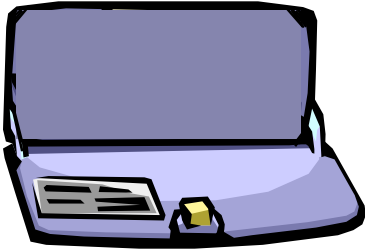


From the Glove Box



This month's Glove Box question and answer was picked up from Old Cars Weekly. Maybe it is something we should talk about!

Question: I own a 1969 Chevrolet Nova. I've had this car since it was new. Is there any reason why I should not switch to a 5-year/150,000 mile extended life antifreeze for the car? I've always used the regular anti-freeze, but recently I've noticed that the extended life antifreeze marketed by Prestone is only a dollar more per gallon than its regular anti-freeze. I've had people tell me not to use extended life antifreeze in older cars, but never any satisfactory explanation as to why.

Answer: The best answer I've gotten for continuing to use ethylene glycol (the "green stuff") in older vehicles is that a thorough flush of the cooling system is required before refilling with extended life anti-freeze. While regular and extended life antifreeze are compatible, even a small amount of ethylene glycol remaining in the cooling system will contaminate the extended life product and reduce its longevity to that of regular antifreeze, I'm told. Antifreeze becomes corrosive to cooling systems components as a result of exhaust contamination due to the engine's daily operation, often under harsh conditions. Most older cars accumulate far less mileage and are generally driven in optimum conditions, which extends antifreeze life as well. If you are renewing your older cars' antifreeze on an annual or bi-annual basis, you may find it beneficial to switch to an extended life antifreeze product, providing you thoroughly flush the cooling system in preparation for the changeover. Given the likelihood that regular antifreeze will maintain its pH balance and additive properties for several years without renewing, you may want to stick with what you've been doing.

New questions or questions & answers are always welcome. You can email me at farrismej@aol.com. Thanks.

Jim Farris
Custodian of the Glove Box

Tire Conversion Chart (cont. from p. 9)

Pre 1964	65 to 72	80 Series Metric	Alpha 78 Series	P Metric 75 Series	P Metric 70 Series
760-15	855-15	215-15	H78-15	P225/75R15	P235/70R15
800-15	885-15	230-15	J78-15	N/A	N/A
820-15	900-15	235-15	L78-15	P235/75R15	P255/70R15
600-16	N/A	N/A	N/A	215/70R16	N/A
650-16	N/A	N/A	N/A	225/75/16	N/A
700-16	N/A	N/A	N/A	215/85R16	N/A
750-16	N/A	N/A	N/A	750/R16	N/A