

SAVVA Technical Tip 127 - Water pumps

An oldie had all kinds of overheating problems. The owner, although very experienced, tried all the usual cures in vain and as a last resort decided to pull the water pump off. Being a large mid 30's car this wasn't a pleasant task as it meant removing the bonnet and then the radiator.

Once the pump was removed the problem was glaringly obvious? Years back when fitting the pump he had wrapped some plastic insulation tape around the pipe as the hose was slightly too large and to make it a nice tight fit.

Little did he realise that when this type of tape gets hot the adhesive becomes slippery and "walks". As can be seen in this (poor) photo the tape was obscuring a good 50% of the orifice. No wonder the car was overheating.

If the hose is a bit too big and you have to take up a bit of slack rather use something that doesn't have adhesive on it. Plastic electrical tape without adhesive is available from specialised electrical suppliers, alternatively, in an emergency, masking tape would work.

The problem with us DIY mechanics is that emergency fixes end up being permanent fixes.

