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Mazda Bongo Cooling System

Mazda Bongo coolant loss can be spectacular, accompanied by gurgling, banging and plenty of steam! When a Bongo overheats, there are a few that suffer no obvious damage. If your Bongo does seem OK after it's overheated, keep an eye on the cylinder head and hoses, as they can be weakened by an overheating episode and fail soon after.

If yours overheats, it's very important to find out why it happened, and to rectify the problem. The cylinder head is usually weakened and often cracks so will need to be replaced along with the head bolts, head gasket, rocker cover gasket, camshaft seals, rocker cover seals, valve stem seals and manifold gaskets etc. You also need to replace whatever caused the cylinder head to overheat e.g. faulty water pump or radiator.

Repairing the damage is unlikely to be cheap, so it pays to spend some time checking your Bongo's cooling system.

Coolant leaks are likely to occur on an aging system, so check the level regularly. Even a small leak will eventually empty a system, so if levels are dropping, there's a problem, don't ignore it. Leaking coolant can leave an obvious puddle or just a rusty stain on a hose or other part. It can collect un-noticed in the padded lining of the engine tray; Lower the tray to check. Or it may evaporate on a hot engine, leaving no obvious puddle, but you might notice the smell of evaporated coolant when driving. There are various 'low coolant warning' alarms available. An internet search will find one. In general, they're not too difficult to fit.

It's important to maintain the cooling system, to help prevent corrosion of the system. Corrosion and sediment can block radiator waterways; Blocked waterways mean poor coolant flow - the engine will overheat. If a radiator is blocked, it should be replaced. Use the correct mix of anti-freeze and water, to help prevent corrosion of the system. Generally a 50/50 mix will be OK, but check if you're unsure. Make sure the Bongo cooling system is bled properly and no trapped air remains; there are various methods you can use, 'how-to-bleed-a-Bongo' videos on You-Tube and guidelines on various Bongo forums that may help you.

The thermostat won't last forever; check yours is fully operational. Always replace it if the vehicle overheats. Check the condition of pipes, they can rust. Check hoses, they deteriorate as they age. Replace any that are soft or bulging. Also check for chaffing where hoses pass across or close to body parts. The air bleed hose and hose under the drivers seat are the two most commonly damaged in this way.

We can check and service the cooling system and carry out all repairs needed including radiator replacement, cylinder head skim or complete replacement.