

Packard **SERVICE TECHNICAL** Bulletin

52T-28
Dealer 21
August 13, 1952

To: ZONES AND DEALERS

Subject: THERMOSTATS AND OVERHEATING

We are receiving thermostats from the field which were removed to correct overheating. In checking the thermostats, it was found that only a very small percentage did not open at the correct temperature or had failed. Out of 37 thermostats tested, 30 functioned normally.

When a thermostat opens at its specified temperature, it has no bearing on an overheating condition. Changing from a 160° to the 151° thermostat will not affect or lower the temperature when an overheating or boiling condition exists.

The actual and true function of a thermostat is to speed up the engine temperature to a normal operating temperature from a cold start. It also insures normal operating temperatures during the varying degrees of cold weather.


It is very easy to check or test thermostats in the field by placing them in hot water, which will indicate quickly if they open properly; then holding them out of the water for a cooling period will check the closing.

On extremely hot days, especially in traffic, the indicator on the temperature gauge will move over toward the "H" side of the dial, or in other words, pass the center of the gauge. If the indicator moves over well toward the "H" side and actual boiling does not occur, the cooling system is functioning normally. With the pressure cap, the coolant may reach a point of 227° F. before boiling will take place.

Some owners may report that their cars were boiling if, after a long high speed run, they stopped at a gas station and water gushed out when the radiator cap was removed. This condition is caused by the cooling system being under pressure -- and is not always an indication of a boiling condition.

The ease with which a thermostat may be checked with reference to overheating, if it operates correctly, and the fact that we receive too many that are not faulty, compel us to make the decision to refuse credit on thermostats returned from the field that are not faulty. This ruling will become effective immediately.

Very truly yours,


J. A. Carr,
General Service Manager