

Wheels: An e-mail from GR says, “At 90°F or above outside air temperature, the engine overheats in slow stop-and-go traffic and at any extended idle. The engine temperature drops to near normal with highway driving. Fixes attempted by 3 dealerships and 1 independent garage are listed below. The problem still exists.

- 2 new thermostats
- a fan clutch rebuild
- 2 radiator flushes
- a new radiator cap

Halderman: If the engine overheats in slow city-type driving, the problem is most likely due to a lack of airflow through the radiator. Has the AC condenser been cleaned? The air has to flow through that unit to get to the radiator. A defective clutch fan or water pump is the most likely cause. At slow engine speeds, the water pump could have worn vanes causing less coolant to flow. There is no test for this except to look for coolant flow with the radiator cap off. But please, do this with caution due to the possibility of boiling hot water being discharged from the radiator. If you call around, you may find a shop that has a tester that allows the technician to view the flow of coolant through a clear plastic tube that is installed in the cooling system.

