

Wheels: A question from Doug asks, “Before I get to my question, I want to thank you for your articles in the Wheels section of the newspaper, while I haven't wrenched for a living for the last 30 years, its enjoyable reading.

On to the question, I bought a 1987 GMC V2500 with less than 50,000 miles, the engine (5.7L TBI), the body, and the running gear are in good shape but the engine was tired from long hours of idling. Hence, I pulled the engine (first time I've done this in a while), and took it for the long block overhaul. The overhaul was completed in a timely manner and with a little help from my family, it was reinstalled.

When the engine was started, I noticed the factory temperature gauge indicated to the hot side after running about 5 minutes, then it appeared the thermostat opened and it cooled to the operating temperature where it stayed.

Thus far I've installed a new radiator, water pump, 3 thermostats, 2 temperature sensors, sending unit, clutch fan and the problem persists.

When I contacted the engine rebuilder, they suggested I pull the intake manifold and check for the proper installation of the gaskets.

Further, I also installed a mechanical gauge for another reference. It indicated the temperature increased to 230 degrees before it started to drop. Yesterday it went to 255 very disturbing degrees before it dropped to 195 where it stays as long as it's running. If it's turned off and cools any, it goes thru the same process.

Do you concur that it's likely improper installation of the intake gaskets, or should I be looking elsewhere?”

Halderman: Some thoughts:

1. Because the engine overheats every time it is started and then cools down, this indicates to me that there may be a problem with the bypass. Was the thermostat installed with the "jiggle" valve up? If not, this could trap air until the thermostat opens.
2. Maybe air is still trapped somewhere in the system. I would loosen the radiator cap one notch when cold and then drive the truck a short distance to allow any trapped air to escape.
3. Is it possible that the intake gasket is installed incorrectly? Yes, but not likely as per your indication that it was professionally installed. If the engine has Vortec heads, I would say yes, it is possible due to the differences in the flow through these heads.

