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Damage to radiators due to wrong screws

After installing a new radiator, leaks or coolant loss may occasionally be detected on the component. The reason is often an installation error.

Frequent cause of radiator damage

Leaks are one of the most common complaints following the replacement of a radiator. In many cases, these are caused by using the wrong screws during installation. If screws of a specific length are required for the individual mounting points of a radiator or fan, an accidental mix-up can have fatal consequences. The same applies when any original screws that have been lost are replaced with alternatives that are too long. In both scenarios, the overly long screws can pierce the water tank or lead to cracks in the radiator support housing, causing coolant to leak out.

Correct radiator installation

During removal and installation, checking the length of the screws at the individual mounting positions is essential. Only use the screws specified by the manufacturer. Any lost screws must be replaced with alternatives of the same type and length. Suitable installation materials, such as screws, seals, and clips, are already included with MAHLE radiators carrying the SIMPLE FIT label. Any dirt or

fluid in blind bolt holes must be removed using compressed air, for example, before installation. Otherwise, there's a risk of damaging the radiator housing even when using screws of the right length.

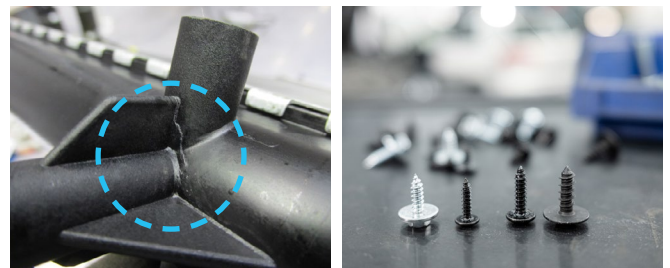


Figure 1: Radiator cracks due to wrong screws

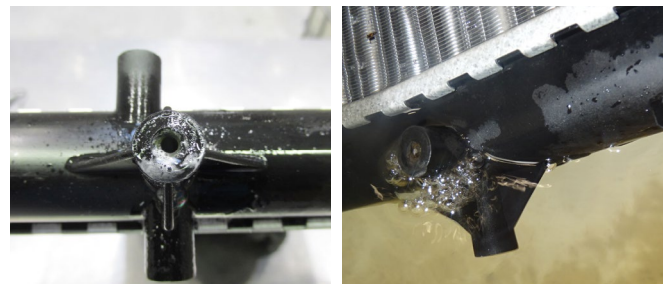


Figure 2: Leak test: the leak from the water tank is revealed under pressure.

Important!

If components in the cooling circuit are replaced, the system must be bled thoroughly afterward. Using a vacuum-venting device for this ensures that malfunctions and air traps are avoided. Only use coolant that has been approved by the manufacturer. In addition, seals on opened connections (quick locks, flanges, etc.) must always be replaced. They also need to be coated with clean coolant before fitting in order to prevent damage caused by dry assembly.