

REPORT REFERENCE

Fluid Condition	Glycol concentration shows whether the right mix ratio is being employed (water to glycol); when lower than expected there is likely inadequate protection for the cooling system and engine, and when higher than expected there will be a loss of heat transfer capabilities. Freeze and Boiling Points are dependent on glycol% and hint at the expected operating temperature range. The pH of conventional coolants is typically higher than that of OAT or HOAT coolants, but both are typically alkaline (pH >7). If the coolant becomes acidic (pH <7) then there is a risk of corrosion, and if the coolant is more alkaline than expected it usually indicates mixing of coolants or over-concentration.
Observations	Color, clarity, and foam provide an overview of the physical appearance of the coolant, as any change will indicate likely degradation and/or contamination. Odors are checked for signs of contamination due to adverse conditions within the cooling system. Non-magnetic particles can appear for a number of reasons including a poor source of water (used to dilute coolant concentrate) or environmental ingress; magnetic particles are signs of corrosion, cavitation or defective electrical grounds.
Contamination	Conductivity increasing indicates contamination originating from the water supply, such as hardness (calcium and magnesium) and fluoride, or combustion gases; sudden changes may be the result of overdosing inhibitor or concentrate, or mixing with another coolant. The presence of these contaminants can lead to scale and/or corrosion within the cooling system.
Degradation	Glycolate indicates the primary breakdown of the glycol portion of the coolant which is generally caused by localized overheating or an air leak (i.e., combustion blow-by) within the system. Acetate, oxalate, and formate are all signs that degradation has progressed into a more severe, secondary stage of degradation.
Additives	The presence and concentration of additives will vary from one coolant to another and should be compared to the new fluid reference; the presence of additives not seen in the reference coolant indicates that mixing with another coolant has likely occurred, and may void the OEM warranty.
Organic Acid Technology	The presence and concentration of these additives will appear in some Extended Life Coolants (ELC) and should be compared to the new fluid reference.
Wear	Wear metals are most commonly signs of corrosion (driven by low or incorrect additives) or cavitation (driven by air leaks). They may also appear due to grounding faults, localized hot spots, or poor water source.