

## Quick Reference: Why Do Cars Overheat?

Cause	Type	Why It Leads to Overheating
Low Coolant	Coolant Issue	Not enough fluid to absorb and carry heat away from the engine.
Old/Dirty Coolant	Coolant Issue	Contaminants reduce cooling efficiency and corrode parts.
Wrong Coolant Mix	Coolant Issue	Alters boiling point and flow, reducing effectiveness.
Water Pump Failure	Mechanical Issue	Stops coolant circulation; heat builds up rapidly.
Stuck Thermostat	Mechanical Issue	Prevents coolant from reaching the radiator.
Clogged or Damaged Radiator	Mechanical Issue	Blocks heat exchange and coolant flow.
Fan Not Working	Mechanical/Electrical	Reduces airflow, especially in traffic or idling.
Hot Weather	External Factor	Adds thermal stress to the system.
Towing or Heavy Load	External Factor	Increases engine output and heat production.
Traffic Jams	External Factor	Reduces airflow; fan must compensate.