

May 30

Topic:

Engine coolant entering the combustion chamber

Issue:

Cracked or worn Head Gaskets or Cracked Cylinder Heads can lead to severe engine damage, which can occur under regular vehicle operation and resulting in:

- Cylinder wall scoring
- Piston melting
- Piston ring breakage
- Valve and/or valve stem seal damage
- Spark Plug ground electrode damage
- Spark Plug center Insulator breakage

The engine coolant contaminates the engine oil preventing normal lubrication and allows damage to occur to internal components and contributes to much higher combustion temperatures.

Background Information:

The spark plug is usually suspected as causing the engine damage as the ground electrode strap is melted or broken at the bend to the metal body or additionally, a portion of the ceramic insulator may be missing. A simple inspection of the spark plug will indicate the shell plating has been removed and a greenish colour is a good indication the cause of the problem was engine coolant contamination.

Solution:

Resolve any and all mechanical issues allowing the entry of the engine coolant into the combustion chamber! Failure to resolve this problem will add further expense and possible subsequent replacement of O2 Sensors and catalytic converter(s).

Note: NGK Canada will not responsible for any costs associated with engine coolant contamination.

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