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Coolant Loss on 1981-92 Toyota 2.4L Engines

The AERA Technical Committee has received reports of coolant loss on 1981-92 Toyota 2.4L engines. Depending upon the amount of loss, there may be evidence of white smoke coming out the tail pipe. This problem has been seen on engines in use as well as engines that have been rebuilt.

This area of leakage has been in the exhaust ports of the cylinder head. Over time continued hot exhaust gases may erode this area and create a hole into the cooling passage between the ports. In some instances pushing on a suspect area with an awl or punch will expose the water jacket. If the head is still on the vehicle, dropping the exhaust manifold will usually reveal coolant droplets hanging on the problem areas. Of course pressure testing the head will also reveal the areas that are leaking.

Some AERA shops are successfully welding this area of affected cylinder heads. There does not, however, seem to be a way of detecting heads that may leak in the future.

The AERA Technical Committee