

Date: June 8, 2020  
Bulletin No: TSB-1033  
Models: All Leece-Neville Alternators  
Subject: Alternator Care and Cleaning

### Alternator Care and Cleaning

It is wise to take a few extra minutes in a normal preventative maintenance regimen to inspect and properly care for your alternator. Following the below procedure will insure that the alternator has a long and reliable life.

- **Connections:** There are many exposed AC and DC electrical connections on most Prestolite-Leece Neville alternators.
  - It is important that these connections are always clean and tight. Loose connections will result in excessive voltage drops, arcing, over charge, under charge and no charge conditions.
  - The presence of common foreign road debris and or salt and calcium chlorides mixed with road spray in normal wet weather driving conditions promotes corrosion and electrolysis from the different material types of the connection terminals, out put terminals and the alternators case. The result may even lead to corrosive conductive bridges to be formed and cause premature alternator failure.
- **Air inlet openings:** The alternator is equipped with its own cooling fan. The purpose of this fan is to circulate/pull air from the rear of the alternator. The air flows through and over the internal components of the alternator to provide adequate cooling.
  - The presence of oil, grease, fuel, dust and dirt promotes thermal degradation and impacts the alternators ability to produce it designed output voltage and amperage. The common result of this type of contamination results in low voltage operation as recognized by the operator and in many cases one deems the alternator defective however the alternators components have no defect whatsoever.
- **Cleaning:** Before cleaning the alternator always insure that the alternator is cool to the touch. Never attempt to clean the alternator when it is hot. If the engine has been operating always shut down engine and wait at least 15 minutes before attempting to clean the alternator.
  - **DO NOT UTILIZE PETROLEUM BASED ENGINE DEGREASERS TO CLEAN THE ALTERNATOR.**
  - **DO NOT UTILIZE COMPRESSED AIR OR A HIGH PRESSURE WASHER TO CLEAN THE ALTERNATOR.**
  - **DO NOT SPRAY ANY CLEANING AGENT OR DEGREASER DIRECTLY INTO ANY AIR INLET OPENINGS OF THE ALTERNATOR.**
  - It is recommended that all off the shelf degreasers be diluted to a 50/50 mixture with water and applied with a soft spray. One should apply a moderate coating of cleaning solution onto the outside surface of the alternator only. Allow solution to soak for 5 minutes. Utilize a fiber soft/medium 2 to 3 inch bristled brush to loosen / clean heavily soiled areas and the terminal connection points. Do not allow cleaning agent to dry before rinsing with water - light to medium water pressure from a normal water hose is more than adequate to rinse away soil and degreaser.

Important: The information contained in this bulletin is intended for use by trained, professional technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to perform the required maintenance described above. This information is NOT intended for 'do-it-yourselfers'; and you should not assume that this information applies to your equipment. If you have any questions regarding this information please visit our website at [www.prestolite.com](http://www.prestolite.com), or contact our technical service department at:

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