



Coolant Leak — Where It Usually Comes From, and What It Costs

How real visits for a coolant leak ended at independent shops across the US — the part actually replaced, how often, and what it cost when it was the only fix.

Water pump or radiator

Nearly half of all these visits end in one of these two

Water pump **\$261 – \$651**

Radiator **\$189 – \$624**

typical cost when it was the only fix
(parts + labor)

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Water pump	30.5%	\$261 – \$651	\$394
Radiator	28.4%	\$189 – \$624	\$401
Thermostat	20.2%	\$165 – \$408	\$262
Hose	17.8%	\$103 – \$387	\$207
Gasket / seal	15.0%	\$65 – \$444	\$188
Radiator hose	10.3%	\$130 – \$386	\$234
Intake manifold	2.6%	\$253 – \$740	\$445
Pipe / tube	2.4%	\$26 – \$196	\$65
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — heater hoses, thermostat housings, coolant reservoirs, head gaskets	varies	—

*Share of visits whose repair involved this part; combined repairs count toward each part, so shares overlap and don't add to 100%.

†Middle half of real invoices when this was the only fix — parts + labor, all vehicle types.

WHICH ONE IS YOURS? LISTEN FIRST

- **Puddle under the front middle** — Radiator and water pump are the two leaders, and they sit near each other at the engine's front.
- **Drips near hoses or clamps** — Hose ends and clamps are the cheap end of coolant leaks — and among the most common.
- **No puddle but the level drops** — Coolant disappearing without a trace either exits as steam from a small hot-surface leak — or, worst case, is entering the engine.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

A pressure test finds most coolant leaks in minutes — expect that before any part is quoted. Hoses and clamps are the cheap end; radiators and water pumps the middle; a head gasket the expensive tail that needs its own proof. A refill with the exact specified coolant and a bleed are part of every fix.

ABOUT THIS DATA · HOW TO USE THIS BRIEF

Vehicles **all makes and models, US fleet**

Data confidence **High** — *large sample, stable shares*

Records through **July 2026**, refreshed continuously

Source **paid invoices from independent US repair shops**

Take it to the shop. It tells you what the likely answers are and what each one should cost — so when the diagnosis comes back, you already know whether the number fits. Vehicle-specific price reports for the common fixes are on fixdozer.com.

NOT A DIAGNOSIS

This brief describes how other owners' visits for a coolant leak ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.