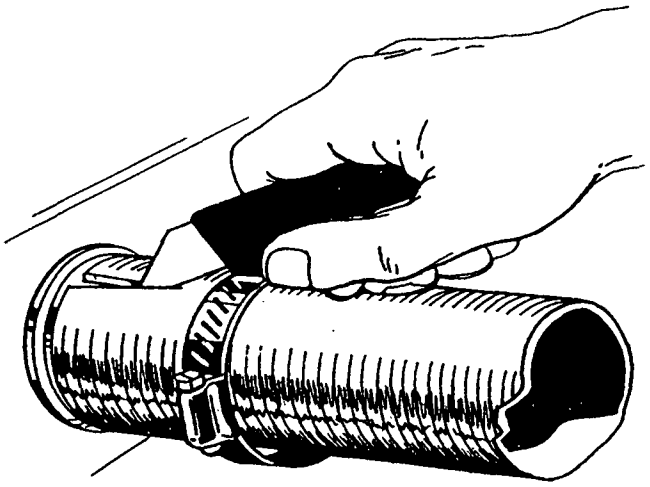
materials are used and what resistance properties are built into the tube and cover. The type of hose used depends on the car owner's preference.

In addition to standard constructions, there is another heater hose construction: a special wire spine that forms into various shapes. This formable heater hose, as it is called, can replace factory-molded curved heater hose just as flexible radiator hose replaces some curved radiator hose.

Formable heater hoses can also replace by-pass hoses. Some manufacturers make a special series of small diameter factory-molded by-pass hoses to fit the most popular cooling systems. These curved by-pass hoses are usually of the same durable construction as curved radiator hose.

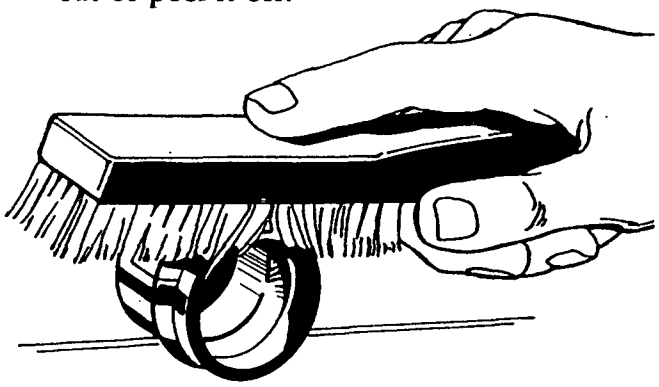
Hose Installation

Most automotive hoses are installed by attaching the hose end to an inlet/outlet pipe or "nipple" and clamping it into place. There are three basic steps to proper hose installation.



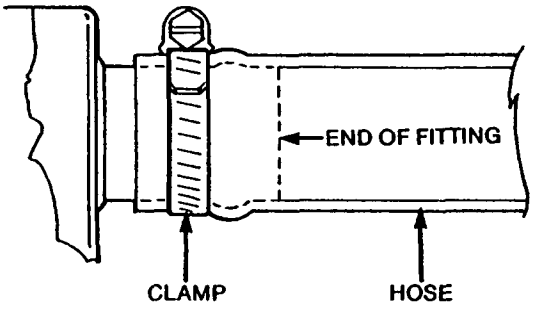
(Figure 19) If the hose is stuck to the fitting, carefully cut it with a sharp knife and peel it off.

1. Carefully remove the old hose. If it transports fluid, drain the system below the level you're working. Most hoses should gently twist off after you've loosened the clamp with a screwdriver or pliers. If the clamp is rusted shut, try cutting it with a pair of tin snips. If the hose is stuck to the fitting after you have loosened the clamp, don't force or pry it off. That could damage the fitting. Use a sharp knife to cut or peel it off.



(Figure 20) Clean the fitting with a wire brush before installing new hose.

2. Check to be sure that the fitting is not distorted. There should be no sharp edges or burrs that could cut through the hose tube. Proper procedure calls for cleaning the neck of the fitting with a wire brush before installing the new hose.



(Figure 21) The proper positioning of the clamp on the newly installed hose.

3. Slip the clamp onto the hose end; then slip the hose onto the fitting. Make sure that the hose is shouldered well beyond the edge of the fitting and the clamp is positioned between the hose end and the fitting's bead. (A clamp tightened on top of the bead will eventually cut the hose tube.) Make sure that the clamp is positioned so that the tightening device is easy to reach. Special care should be taken when installing a clamp on formable heater hose. With this type of hose, the tightening device on the clamp must be positioned so that it is not directly on top of the spine wire.