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Glycol

Automobile manufacturers use glycol solutions in their engine cooling systems regardless of where their vehicles are sold for two main reasons – corrosion protection and a higher boiling point. Freeze protection is a bonus. In HVAC systems, freeze protection is the primary reason we use glycol, but there are important guidelines that should be followed for a successful glycol installation.

- Make sure the system is clean before the glycol is installed.
- Use high quality mix water or buy a pre-mixed solution. (If you've got a jug of Prestone at home, read the instructions. They don't want you to mix that with crappy water, either.)
- Use a packaged feeder rather than a raw water connection for makeup and pressurization.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for minimum concentrations. Very low concentrations may not provide adequate inhibitor strength.
- Check the concentration, pH, and inhibitor strength annually.

These are the main things; for an excellent technical article with more detail on the use of anti-freeze in HVAC systems go to www.raypak.com/commframe.htm.

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