2015-2018 Audi A3 | Moderate | 1.5-2.5 hours | $32 DIY

TOOLS

Torx bit set for the undertray screws
Large drain pan (5+ gallons) Funnel
Pliers for spring hose clamps Distilled water (2-3 gallons) Fresh coolant per owner's manual spec (premixed or concentrate) Sealed jugs for used coolant
 Gloves and safety glasses

PARTS

G13 Coolant G013A8J1G1 $20.00
Coolant Hose Clamps 8E0121061A $10.00
Coolant Bleed Screw N90314201 $2.00

STEPS

1. **Start cold and confirm the coolant spec - Work only on a cold engine - the 2015-2018 A3** (8V generation, MQB platform) tucks its turbo and exhaust where they stay hot for a long time. Open the hood and find the coolant expansion tank: a translucent plastic bottle with a blue or...
2. **Get access to the lower radiator hose - Put on gloves and safety glasses, and make sure** the expansion tank cap is still on for now - keeping it sealed keeps the initial drain slow and controllable instead of a sudden gush.
3. **Drain through the lower radiator hose - Loosen the clamp on the lower radiator hose -** these are usually spring clamps you squeeze open with pliers. Position the drain pan directly under the connection, then twist and pull the hose off the radiator neck. Coolant will pour out....
4. **Flush with distilled water until clear - Reconnect everything and fill the expansion tank** with distilled water only - never a garden hose, since tap-water minerals bake onto the inside of the system. Close the cap, start the engine, and set the climate control to full hot (HI)...
5. **Refill slowly and use the bleed screw if fitted - Now fill the expansion tank slowly with** fresh coolant matching your owner's manual specification - premixed is easiest for an exact ratio, or mix concentrate 50/50 with distilled water in a clean jug first. Fill the tank to the MAX mark.
6. **Bleed at 2,000 rpm and verify hot vents - Leave the expansion tank cap off, start the** engine, and hold it at about 2,000 rpm for up to two minutes with the heater still on full hot. Watch the tank: air bubbles will burp up and the level will fall as coolant takes their place - t...
7. **Road test, recheck cold, and recycle - Take the A3 for a 10-15 minute drive, watching the** temperature gauge sit steady at 90C. Park and let the engine cool fully, then check the tank: cold, the level should sit between MIN and MAX. Top off if it settled. Look under the car...

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