

Potting Material in Electrical Components

More than likely, you have experienced the “famous” goo running out of 1 of these 3 electrical components on your Li'l Red Express Truck.

I want to explain what this “goo” is, and its effect on the operation of the electrical units it's leaking from. Its official name is “Potting Material” and its purpose was to eliminate the vibration that could cause damage to the internal electric components of these items.

I can personally attest to the fear I had when I first saw the “goo” running down the firewall, from the Electronic Ignition module on my Li'l Red. I immediately ordered a new unit because I knew my old unit was going bad.

“Wrong”, after replacing my original Ignition module with 2 different brand-new units that were defective from the day I purchased them. I then put the old “leaking” one back on and to my surprise, the truck ran just fine.

I then realized what was happening and decided to remedy the situation myself.

Since the “potting” material is there just to stop vibration, I decided to just clean the back of the unit, so the edges were free of any potting material, and then

filled the entire back of the ECM with silicone. I let it dry overnight and re-installed it the next day, and it has been working fine for the last 15 years.

My point here is, your components aren't going bad, just because they are leaking. The original potting material has just broken down, from years of heat and vibration.

Below are 3 components of the electrical system that this will happen to.

1. The Electronic Ignition Module



**ECM/ICM (ELECTRONIC CONTROL
MODULE/ IGNITION CONTROL MODULE)**

The originals were 5 pin units, however, all the new ones are 4 pin units, and they will work just fine.

2. The Voltage Regulator

Voltage Regulator



3. The EGR Timer



**EGR
Timer**

This unit will either be “green”, and on the firewall of a 1978 or “black” and on the driver’s side inner fender, on a 1979.

I hope this helps dispel any panic you might incur when you see the “Goo” running out of these units.

Just remember, the unit “**has not gone bad**”, because it is leaking. Just stop the leaking and save yourself some money!

John C. Roberts

***Co-Founder, President & Senior Judge NALRETO
(National Association of Li'l Red Express Owners)***