

INFORMATION BULLETIN



**AUTOMOTIVE
MAINTENANCE &
REPAIR
ASSOCIATION**

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POWER STEERING FLUID EXCHANGE

Power steering fluid can become contaminated by wear debris, pressure and heat

Laboratory and field-testing show that early in the life of a new vehicle, wear particles from the normal wear of metal power steering system components are suspended in the power steering fluid. As those metal particles are circulated (under pressure) throughout the vehicle's power steering system, they can erode flexible seals and hoses, causing system leaks and premature failure of major power steering system components.

The Motorist Assurance Program's position is that IF there is a published interval for power steering fluid replacement in the vehicle manufacturer's maintenance schedule – that interval should be followed. Additionally, the power steering fluid should be exchanged whenever a system component (pump, hose, rack & pinion, etc.) is replaced.

Although most vehicles use similar types of power steering system fluid and components - and most power steering systems are susceptible to similar component failures; relatively few vehicle manufacturers publish an interval for power steering fluid replacement in their vehicle maintenance schedules. This lack of published power steering fluid exchange intervals may not be in the best interest of many motorists.

A power steering fluid exchange service is typically far less expensive to the consumer than replacement of power steering system components. Therefore, a one-time power steering fluid exchange service may be beneficial to motorists intent upon keeping their vehicle for an extended period of time, or to those who incur excessive miles driven during the ownership of their vehicle.

- ***Power Steering Fluid Exchange service may be suggested (once) early in a vehicle's life to remove contaminants and help extend component life***
- ***Power Steering Fluid Exchange service may be suggested on a scheduled (time/mileage) basis if recommended by the OEM***
- ***Power Steering Fluid Exchange service may be suggested upon specific consumer request***
- ***Power Steering Fluid Exchange service may be required when a specific condition is found, e.g., contaminated.***

For other Power Steering Fluid repair conditions, review "Power Steering Fluid" in MAP's electronic-Uniform Inspection and Communication Standards (e-UICS).

MAP hopes this information will be used when counseling consumers about suggested services, so motorists may recognize the importance of 'preventive maintenance' – and act before component failure occurs.



**MOTORIST
ASSURANCE
PROGRAM**

STANDARDS FOR AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

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*The Motorist Assurance Program is a consumer outreach
program of the Automobile Maintenance & Repair Association*