

Question:

Does my transmission fluid need to be changed and if so how often do I need to change it?

Answer:

Transmission fluid, just like motor oil, collects contaminants and deteriorates over time forming damaging sludge and varnish deposits. Automobile manufacturers require scheduled transmission fluid changes in order to maintain warranty coverage, not to mention keeping your vehicle operating properly after the warranty period has expired. Studies have shown that 90% of transmission failures are due to overheating and fluid contamination which may have been avoided by changing the fluid. The best method of changing transmission fluid is a complete flushing of the system. A flushing machine is attached to the vehicle that flushes the system and exchanges 95 to 99% of the fluid. A chemical flushing agent is usually used to suspend the contaminants and deposits into the old fluid before it is removed and then the old fluid is replaced with new fluid. A transmission conditioner fluid should also be added at this time.

Frequency of this service is not the same for all vehicles. Each manufacturer has different recommendations for each of its models. Check your owner's manual for your recommendation or ask your Quick Change service tech the next time you have an oil change. Not due for an oil change? Then just call us (732-5555) and we can look up your vehicle.