

# Performing a Power Steering Flush Service – Best Practice Guide & Observation

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to provide Critical to Safety and Critical to Quality callouts, Best Practice process steps and guidelines, as well as an observation to support teams involved in **Performing a Power Steering Fluid Service**.

By following this guide, you will be able to perform the detailed steps of a power steering flush service with the goal to maintain steering performance, prevent damage, and help avoid costly repairs.

## SAFETY & QUALITY FIRST



### CRITICAL TO SAFETY

- Always wear safety glasses.
- Care should be taken since fluids may be hot.
- Clean up any spilled fluid to avoid slip and falls.



### CRITICAL TO QUALITY

- Only utilize fluid approved for use in the vehicle being serviced. Refer to Valvoline DASH, ALLDATA.
- Check fluid levels regularly. Low fluid can cause air to get into the system and cause pump damage.
- Avoid over filling the system.

## BEST PRACTICE PROCESS STEPS

A power steering flush service, which is part of any vehicle's regularly scheduled maintenance, should also be performed as part of a power steering system repair, such as a pump, hose, rack and pinion/gearbox or cooler replacement. This will ensure any debris or dirty fluid is removed and avoid premature failure of the new components due to poor lubrication or debris.

| Step | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Inspect the power steering system for leaks. If a leak is found, the repairs should be made before performing the service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2    | Prepare the power steering flush machine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the proper power steering fluid and cleaner type.</li> <li>• Ensure the waste container is empty.</li> <li>• Set up the machine with the cleaner fluid bottle attached.</li> <li>• Connect the machine to a power source (e.g., battery or wall plug, depending on the machine).</li> </ul> |    |

| Step | Action                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3    | Remove the power steering cap from the fluid reservoir.                                                                                    |    |
| 4    | With the engine OFF, install the suction hose from the machine into the fluid reservoir.                                                   |    |
| 5    | Remove all the fluid from the reservoir by pressing the drain button on the control.                                                       |    |
| 6    | Fill the reservoir with cleaner fluid by pressing the fill button on the control.                                                          |   |
| 7    | Start the vehicle and turn the steering wheel to 'lock' a few times to circulate the cleaner through the system.                           |  |
| 8    | With the vehicle running, remove half the fluid from the reservoir and refill it with cleaner.<br><b>Note:</b> Avoid running the pump low. |                                                                                       |
| 9    | Turn the steering wheel to 'lock' again multiple times to circulate the cleaner.                                                           |                                                                                       |
| 10   | Repeat Steps 8 and 9 until all the cleaner has been used.                                                                                  |                                                                                       |
| 11   | Turn off the engine.                                                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| 12   | Remove the empty cleaner bottle from the machine and replace it with a new container of approved power steering fluid.                     |  |
| 13   | Remove the cleaner completely from the reservoir and refill with new approved power steering fluid.                                        |                                                                                       |
| 14   | Start the engine and turn the steering wheel to 'lock' a few times to circulate the new fluid through the system.                          |                                                                                       |

| Step | Action                                                                                                                                                    |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15   | With the vehicle running, remove half the power steering fluid from the reservoir and refill with more fluid.<br><b>Note:</b> Avoid running the pump low. |
| 16   | Repeat Steps 14 and 15 until all the cleaner has been replaced with new approved power steering fluid.                                                    |
| 17   | Ensure that the fluid is at the appropriate level.                                                                                                        |
| 18   | Reinstall the cap and clean the reservoir.                             |
| 19   | Test drive the vehicle following the <a href="#">Test Driving Vehicles Best Practice</a> to ensure proper system performance.                             |

|           |           |        |       |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Employee: | Observer: | Store: | Date: |
|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|

## Performing a Power Steering Flush Service

| Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ✓ |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Inspects</u> the power steering system for leaks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |
| 2. Prepares the power steering flush machine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Identifies</u> the proper power steering fluid and cleaner type.</li> <li>• <u>Ensures</u> the waste container is empty.</li> <li>• <u>Sets up</u> the machine with the cleaner fluid bottle attached.</li> <li>• <u>Connects</u> the machine to a power source.</li> </ul> |   |
| 3. <u>Removes</u> the power steering cap from the fluid reservoir.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   |
| 4. With the engine OFF, <u>installs</u> the suction hose from the machine into the fluid reservoir.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |   |
| 5. <u>Removes</u> all the fluid from the reservoir by depressing the drain button on the control.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   |
| 6. <u>Fills</u> the reservoir with cleaner fluid by depressing the fill button on the control.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |
| 7. <u>Starts</u> the vehicle and <u>turns</u> the steering wheel to 'lock' a few times.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |
| 8. With the vehicle running, <u>removes</u> half the fluid from the reservoir and <u>refills</u> it with cleaner.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   |
| 9. <u>Turns</u> the steering wheel to 'lock' again multiple times.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   |
| 10. <u>Repeats</u> Steps 8 and 9 until all the cleaner has been used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |   |
| 11. <u>Turns off</u> the engine.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |   |
| 12. <u>Removes</u> the empty cleaner bottle from the machine and <u>replaces</u> it with a new container of approved power steering fluid.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |   |
| 13. <u>Removes</u> the cleaner completely from the reservoir and <u>refills</u> with new approved power steering fluid.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |
| 14. <u>Starts</u> the engine and <u>turns</u> the steering wheel to 'lock' a few times.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |   |
| 15. With the vehicle running, <u>removes</u> half the power steering fluid from the reservoir and <u>refills</u> with more fluid.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |   |
| 16. <u>Repeats</u> Steps 14 and 15 until all the cleaner has been replaced with new approved power steering fluid.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |   |
| 17. <u>Ensures</u> the fluid is at the appropriate level.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |   |
| 18. <u>Reinstalls</u> the cap and <u>cleans</u> the reservoir.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |
| 19. <u>Test drives</u> the vehicle following the <a href="#">Test Driving Vehicles Best Practice</a> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |   |