

Above and Beyond Auto Repair

ABOUT TRANSMISSION SERVICES

Servicing your Automatic or Manual Transmission is a very important maintenance procedure as your transmission is the second most important component of your vehicle. Most people change the engine oil on a regular basis, but neglect to change the transmission oil (fluid) at all, or will let the transmission fluid (oil) remain in their transmissions far beyond the service life of the lubricating qualities of the fluids.

Automatic transmissions are far more susceptible to becoming contaminated with internal friction materials and malfunction, because of the nature of the transmission. An automatic transmission has clutch materials similar to a standard transmission vehicle EXCEPT the clutch packs are contained inside the transmission and are operated hydraulically. The friction materials that wear out in the clutch packs fall to the bottom of the transmission pan and collect there. If they remain and are not cleaned out on a regular basis, they are picked up again and could clog the hydraulic passages causing expensive transmission problems later. It is not a matter of "IF" they will cause problems, it's a matter of "WHEN."

Maintaining your vehicles transmission fluid is not any more expensive than changing the oil on a regular basis, except that the transmission service intervals are spaced further apart than regular oil changes. When the service amounts are added together, the final cost of maintaining your transmission, is FAR LESS EXPENSIVE than replacing a transmission due to lack of maintenance.

A typical "Complete Transmission Service" will take approximately one hour and should be done EVERY 50,000 miles (at least). Special circumstances add to the mileage/time estimates such as, Four-Wheel drive, All-Wheel drive, and others. Heavy or Severe Duty vehicles should be serviced more frequently.

A Complete Transmission Service will consist of 1) Checking the Condition of the fluid BEFORE servicing. 2) Removing the transmission pan, draining the fluid and cleaning the pan. 3) Replacing the filter. 4) Replacing the pan gasket and filling the transmission to the proper level with new fluid.

Failure to service your transmission as needed, is the same as not changing the oil in your engine. **Waiting until you have a problem is waiting to long.**