



TT443: FUEL TANK CLEANING AND INSPECTION

February 6, 2015



APPLIES TO	SYMPTOMS
All Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance Concerns • Abnormal or Erratic Mechanical Operation

Fuel tanks occasionally contain residue from manufacturing. If a tank is found to have manufacturing debris during the warranty period, follow these fuel tank cleaning and inspection best practices.

Inspection

- Inspect the fuel tank for leaks or other damage. Replace damaged tanks that cannot be successfully repaired.
- Replace damaged external medallions rather than entire fuel tank. Tank replacement warranty will be rejected.
- Inspect internally for sludge, varnish or dirt. Rust is not a warranty condition.
- Inspect all hoses for cuts, cracks, nicks or other damage.

Cleaning

⚠ WARNING

When servicing the fuel system, do not smoke or allow open flame or sparks in the vicinity. Gasoline is extremely flammable and highly explosive, which could result in death or serious injury. (00330a)

⚠ WARNING

To prevent spray of fuel, purge system of high-pressure fuel before supply line is disconnected. Gasoline is extremely flammable and highly explosive, which could result in death or serious injury. (00275a)

⚠ WARNING

Gasoline can drain from the fuel line and adapter when removed. Gasoline is extremely flammable and highly explosive, which could result in death or serious injury. Wipe up spilled fuel immediately and dispose of rags in a suitable manner. (00255a)

⚠ WARNING

Wipe up spilled fuel and dispose of rags in a suitable manner. An open spark around gasoline could cause a fire or explosion, resulting in death or serious injury. (00518b)

⚠ WARNING

Do not use solvents or other products that contain chlorine on plastic fuel system components. Chlorine can degrade plastic fuel system components, which can cause a loss of fuel system pressure or engine stalling and could result in death or serious injury. (000621b)

NOTE

Refer to the appropriate service manual for specific procedures.

If sludge, varnish deposits or manufacturing residue is found, clean fuel tank:

1. Remove fuel tank.
2. Remove the fuel valve assembly. Plug opening.
3. Remove the fuel level sender and pump.
4. Fill the tank with an over-the-counter automotive fuel system cleaner, mineral spirits or a soap and hot water solution.
5. If necessary, add non-ferrous balls or pellets to help loosen deposits.
6. Shake the tank to agitate the cleaning agent.
7. Thoroughly flush with clear water.
8. Perform a second time if necessary.
9. Allow tank to air dry. Rinse with fuel system de-icer or isopropyl alcohol to speed drying process.
10. Install fuel level sender and pump.
11. Install fuel valve assembly.
12. Install fuel tank.
13. If this repair is performed on a vehicle under warranty, submit a warranty claim:
 - a. Use labor code 2541 for fuel tank removal and installation for the model being repaired.
 - b. Add 0.4 hrs under labor code 8888 for tank cleaning.
 - c. Complete and submit the claim following the normal procedure.