

FORD:

2005-2007 Five Hundred, Freestyle
2001-2007 Escape

MERCURY:

2005-2007 Montego, Mariner

This article supersedes TSB **04-22-10** to update the vehicle model years.

ISSUE

Some 2001-2007 Escape and 2005-2007 Freestyle, Five Hundred, Montego, and Mariner vehicles may exhibit a steering gear squeak when turning the steering wheel. This noise can occur under multiple conditions, but most commonly occurs during low speed parking maneuvers. The squeak can also be heard while turning the wheel when the engine is not running. The noise may sound like it is coming from the steering column boot area near the driver's feet, and then emanate up the steering shaft to the top of the steering column. Do not confuse this high-pitched squeak with a steering moan or whine noise, or noise at full lock turn

ACTION

Lubricate the steering column boot, then flush out the factory filled power steering fluid and replace with Motorcraft® MERCON® V Automatic Transmission Fluid. Refer to the following Service Procedure.

SERVICE PROCEDURE**NOTE**

USE ONLY MERCON® V FLUID AS SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE. USING ANY OTHER FLUIDS AND/OR ADDITIVES MAY RESULT IN SEAL DETERIORATION AND LEAKS. MERCON® (XL-9, XT-2-QDX OR F7AZ-3F823-BA) WILL NOT RESOLVE NOISE CONCERN.

NOTE

TYPE-F FLUID (XL-8, XT-1-QF or F7AZ-3F823-AA) IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THIS SYSTEM AND SHOULD NEVER BE USED IN THIS APPLICATION.

1. From inside the vehicle, use Motorcraft® Silicone Spray Lubricant to lightly lubricate the steering column where it passes through the steering column boot.

NOTE: The information in Technical Service Bulletins is intended for use by trained, professional technicians with the knowledge, tools, and equipment to do the job properly and safely. It informs these technicians of conditions that may occur on some vehicles, or provides information that could assist in proper vehicle service. The procedures should not be performed by "do-it-yourselfers". Do not assume that a condition described affects your car or truck. Contact a Ford, Lincoln, or Mercury dealership to determine whether the Bulletin applies to your vehicle. Warranty Policy and Extended Service Plan documentation determine Warranty and/or Extended Service Plan coverage unless stated otherwise in the TSB article. The information in this Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) was current at the time of printing. Ford Motor Company reserves the right to supersede this information with updates. The most recent information is available through Ford Motor Company's on-line technical resources.

2. Raise the vehicle on a hoist enough so the front wheels are off the ground allowing the steering wheel to be turned from lock to lock.
3. Flush out the factory fill power steering fluid and replace with Motorcraft® MERCON® V Automatic Transmission Fluid. Refer to Power Steering System Flushing procedure in the Workshop Manual, Section 211-00.

NOTE

A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) QUARTS MUST BE USED TO THOROUGHLY FLUSH THE SYSTEM. THE STEERING WHEEL MUST BE TURNED FROM LOCK TO LOCK WHILE PERFORMING THE FLUSH TO ENSURE THE MERCON® IS REPLACED WITHIN THE STEERING GEAR/RACK.

4. Following the flush procedure, ensure the level of the MERCON® V fluid in the steering reservoir is at the "MAX" line.
5. Start the engine and keep it at idle. Remain inside of the vehicle.
6. Slowly cycle the steering wheel from lock to lock for two (2) minutes.
7. Quickly and forcefully turn the steering wheel in one direction to full lock (either side). Bounce the steering wheel on / off of full lock twenty (20) times forcefully.

NOTE

IT IS CRITICAL THAT THE STEERING WHEEL IS TURNED QUICKLY AND FORCEFULLY IN ORDER TO CREATE A PRESSURE SPIKE IN THE POWER STEERING SYSTEM.

8. Repeat Step 6 in the other direction. Return the steering wheel to center position.

TSB 06-23-3 (Continued)

9. Slowly turn steering wheel to full lock in one direction (either direction) to achieve maximum pump pressure. Hold at full lock for one (1) second, then turn the steering wheel back 90° as quickly as possible. Repeat this procedure twenty (20) times.

NOTE

DO NOT HOLD THE STEERING WHEEL AGAINST THE STOPS FOR MORE THAN THREE (3) SECONDS AT A TIME. DAMAGE TO THE POWER STEERING PUMP MAY OCCUR.

10. Repeat Step 9 in the other direction.

PART NUMBER	PART NAME
XL-6 XT-5-QM	Motorcraft® Silicone Spray Lubricant Motorcraft® MERCON® V Automatic Transmission Fluid

WARRANTY STATUS: Eligible Under Provisions Of
New Vehicle Limited
Warranty Coverage

OPERATION	DESCRIPTION	TIME
062303A	2001-2007 Escape, 2005-2007 Mariner: Flush And Replace The Power Steering Fluid, And Lubricate Steering Column Boot	0.8 Hr.
062303A	2005-2007 Freestyle, Five Hundred, Montego: Flush And Replace The Power Steering Fluid, And Lubricate Steering Column Boot	0.8 Hr.

DEALER CODING

BASIC PART NO.
3504

CONDITION
CODE
42