

STEERING GEAR SQUEAK—WHEN TURNING THE STEERING WHEEL DURING LOW SPEED PARKING MANEUVERS

FORD:

2001-2003 Escape

ISSUE

Some 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.

ACTION

Lubricate the steering column boot, then flush out the factory filled power steering fluid and replace with Motorcraft Mercon V (XT-5-QM). Refer to the following Service Procedure.

SERVICE PROCEDURE

NOTE

USE ONLY THE FLUID SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE. USING ANY OTHER FLUIDS AND/OR ADDITIVES MAY RESULT IN SEAL DETERIORATION AND LEAKS.

1. From inside the vehicle, use Motorcraft Silicone Spray Lubricant (XL-6) to lightly lubricate the steering column where it passes through the steering column boot.
2. Flush out the factory fill power steering fluid and replace with Motorcraft Mercon V (XT-5-QM). Refer to Power Steering System Flushing procedure in Section 211-00 of the Workshop Manual.
3. 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.
4. Start the engine and keep it at idle. Remain inside of the vehicle.

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 supercede this information with updates. The most recent information is available through Ford Motor Company's on-line technical resources.

5. Slowly cycle the steering wheel from lock to lock for two (2) minutes.
6. 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.

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

9. Repeat Step 8 in the other direction.

PART NUMBER	PART NAME
XT-5-QM	Motorcraft Mercon V
XL-6	Motorcraft Silicone Spray Lubricant

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

OPERATION	DESCRIPTION	TIME
042210A	Flush And Replace The Power Steering Fluid, And Lubricate Steering Column Boot	0.8 Hr.

DEALER CODING

BASIC PART NO.
3504

CONDITION
CODE
42