

FAQ: THERMAL BYPASS VALVES?

THE FACTS ABOUT THERMAL BYPASS VALVES AND OIL COOLER FLUSHING

Thermal bypass valves are showing up on more and more automobiles everyday. The original concept was developed for units that have to endure severe winter conditions. Bypassing the cooler allows for a rapid rise in transmission oil temperature on start up, when the radiator and oil cooler have been subject to extreme winter cooling. This allows for the transmission to achieve the perfect operating temperature rapidly, before it is driven with extremely cold fluid causing unnecessary strain and wear on internal components. In essence, the thermal bypass valve is a thermostat for your transmission. In most non-severe winter cases, the thermostat controlling the water temperature and torque converter combined, will build this heat rapidly enough.

Heated flusher manufacturers have stated that you need a heated flusher to open and flush through the transmission oil cooler on cars equipped with thermal bypass valves. Problem one is that heated flushers may not even heat up to the temperature necessary to open these valves. Problem two is that if the valve is not bypassed or opened completely, then you may get faulty flow verification, which may lead to the unnecessary time and expense of a cooler replacement.

Ford's larger trucks are using a thermal bypass valve in a port to port cross tube on the side of the transmission. Accessing the cooler lines and flushing the cooler has nothing to do with this bypass tube and no heat is required.

Ford's larger rear wheel drive cars have a thermal bypass valve that is incorporated into an air over oil unit that also includes a power steering cooler. This unit is an aluminum stack plate design and the TSB instructs on how to disassemble and clean with no heat required.

Chrysler's TSB instructs on how to flush the bypass circuit first. Then you remove the retaining ring and the bypass valve and install a plug (part #8414). With the plug installed you can now flush through the cooler circuit and no heat is required.

- FACT: Hecat has been unable to find one OEM TSB that confirms the claim you need a heated flusher.
- FACT: Hecat has found many TSB's regarding thermal bypass valves and how to defeat or bypass the valve to flush the cooler, none of which claim that heat or a heated flusher is required.
- FACT: You do not need a high tech (\$\$\$) flusher to do this job. You need a flusher that works.
- FACT: Since the FTC was deregulated, there is no true watchdog over deceptive marketing and this "thermal bypass valve" issue is just another case of twisting the facts and marketing to the fears of the masses.
- Proverbs 14:15 "A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps"



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