

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Matthew C. Reynolds

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

March 19, 2001

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator, Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 01V-011.002

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2001 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler expects to begin owner notification during the week of April 9, 2001. The exact number of manufactured vehicles in the recall is 29,343.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

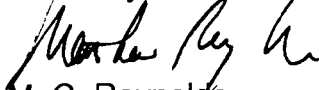
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
1E000809	1E135945

(VIN last eight characters) - 1 = 2001 model year; E = MMMA Assembly Plant, Bloomington – Normal, Illinois; and the last six digits = sequential number.

We caution that the above range represents only the lowest and highest VIN sequential numbers included in the recall. This range cannot be used to determine conclusively that a vehicle is involved in the recall because most vehicles with a VIN within the range are not affected by the recall.

This completes DaimlerChrysler's package of information for this recall as required by the Defects Report Regulation.

Sincerely,



M. C. Reynolds

Enclosure: Recall #969

cc: K. C. DeMeter

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
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DAIMLERCHRYSLER

April 2001

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall No. 900 **Automatic Transaxle Oil Cooler Hoses**

Models

2001 (ST) Chrysler Sebring Coupe and Dodge Stratus Coupe (Two Door)

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles equipped with an automatic transaxle and a:

- *3.0L engine ("H" in the 8th VIN Position) built through December 9, 2000 (MDH 1209XX) or,*
- *2.4L engine ("G" in the 8th VIN Position) built through January 5, 2001 (MDH 0105XX).*

IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer new vehicle inventory. **Federal law requires you to stop sale and complete this recall service on these vehicles before retail delivery.** Dealers should also consider this requirement to apply to used vehicle inventory and should perform this recall on vehicles in for service. Involved vehicles can be determined by using the DIAL VIP System.

Subject

The automatic transaxle oil cooler hoses on about 29,300 of the above vehicles may have been improperly manufactured. Over time, the hoses may deteriorate and leak transmission fluid. Automatic transmission fluid leakage in the presence of an ignition source can result in a vehicle fire.

Repair

The automatic transaxle oil cooler hoses and clamps must be replaced.

Parts Information

Part Number	Description	Part Code	Engine
MR968546	Transaxle Oil Cooler Hose Package	1	3.0L (V-6)
MR968545	Transaxle Oil Cooler Hose Package	2	2.4L
05073942AA	Automatic Transaxle Fluid	N/A	All

Each cooler hose package contains the following components:

- | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Transaxle Oil Cooler Hose Assembly |
| 4 | Hose Clamps |

Each dealer to whom vehicles in the recall were invoiced (or the current dealer at the same street address) will receive enough Transaxle Oil Cooler Hose Packages to service about 10% of those vehicles.

Service Procedure

1. On vehicles equipped with a V-6 engine, remove the two plastic retainer clips on the air cleaner inlet duct (Figure 1).

NOTE: Push the center release pin of the plastic retainer down about 1/8 inch to release the retainer. The center release pin may be lost if it is pressed completely out of the retainer. If new air cleaner inlet duct retainer clips are required, order P/N MB476821 or equivalent.

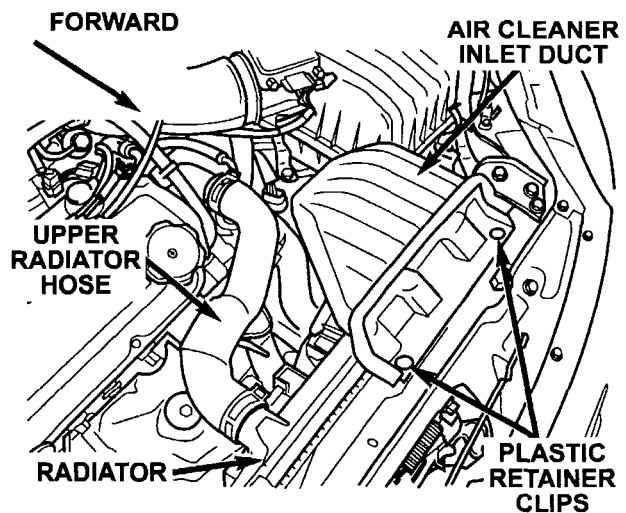


Figure 1

2. On vehicles equipped with a V-6 engine, remove the air cleaner inlet duct from the air cleaner housing.

Service Procedure (Continued)

3. Using 90 degree angled jaw needle nose pliers, squeeze and then slide each of the four (4) cooler hose clamps off of the fitting toward the center of the hose (Figure 2).
4. Carefully twist and pull the cooler hoses from each of the four fittings.
5. Remove the cooler hose assembly from the bracket on the lower edge of the radiator and discard the old hoses and clamps (Figure 2).
6. Position the supplied hose clamps onto each end of the new cooler hoses.
7. Orient the hose in the correct position and install the hose ends over the fittings.
8. Position the new clamps on the cooler hoses and ensure that they are tight.
9. Secure the new cooler hose assembly into the radiator bracket.
10. **On vehicles equipped with a V-6 engine**, install the air cleaner inlet duct onto the air cleaner housing.
11. **On vehicles equipped with a V-6 engine**, install the two plastic retainer clips that secure the air cleaner inlet duct to the radiator core support.

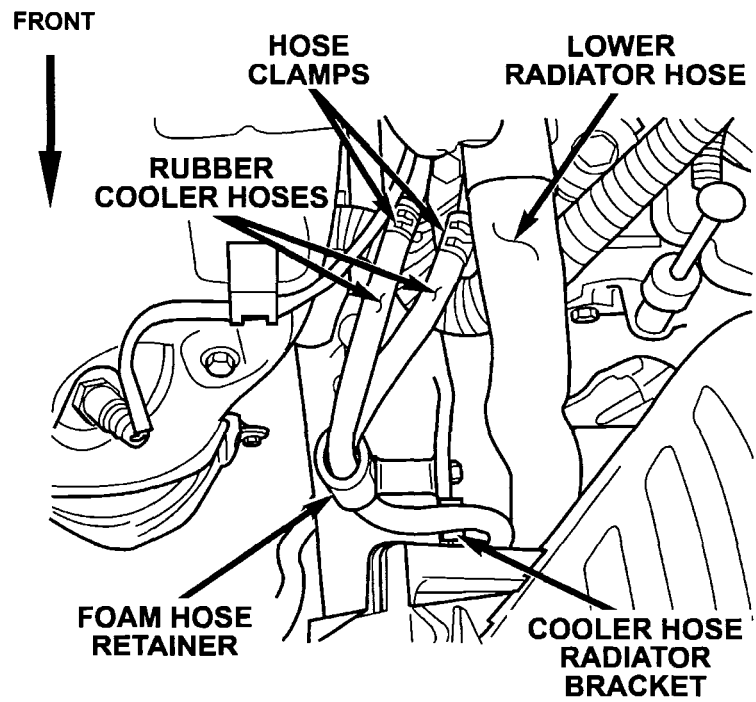


Figure 2 – Four Cylinder Engine Configuration Shown

Service Procedure (Continued)

12. Check the fluid level in the transaxle and add fluid if necessary using the following procedure:

NOTE: The fluid level should be checked when the engine temperature gauge indicates a normal warmed up condition and the fluid in the transaxle is heated to its normal operating temperature.

- a. With the parking brake engaged and the engine idling, select each gear momentarily, ending with the **selector lever in the “N” (NEUTRAL) position.**
- b. Remove the transaxle dipstick and check the fluid level. The fluid level should be at the FULL mark on the dipstick, but never above the FULL mark.
- c. Add transmission fluid as necessary to bring the fluid level to the proper level.
- d. Re-install the dipstick and make certain that the dipstick cap is reseated properly to prevent dirt and water from entering the transaxle.

13. Check transaxle oil cooler hose connections for leaks.

Completion Reporting and Reimbursement

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DIAL System. Claims submitted will be used by DaimlerChrysler to record recall service completions and provide dealer payments.

Use the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Replace transaxle oil cooler hoses	21-96-91-82	0.4 hours

Add the cost of the recall parts package plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

NOTE: See the Warranty Administration Manual, Recall Claim Processing Section, for complete recall claim processing instructions.

Parts Return

Not required.

Dealer Notification and Vehicle List

All dealers will receive a copy of this dealer recall notification letter by first class mail. Two additional copies will be sent through the DCMMS, and the MDS2 will be updated to include this recall in the near future. **Each dealer to whom involved vehicles were invoiced** (or the current dealer at the same street address) **will receive a list of their involved vehicles.** The vehicle list is arranged in Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) sequence. Owners known to DaimlerChrysler are also listed. The lists are for dealer reference in arranging for service of involved vehicles.

DIAL System Functions 53 and VIP

All involved vehicles have been entered to DIAL System Functions 53 and VIP for dealer inquiry as needed.

Function 53 provides involved dealers with an updated VIN list of their incomplete vehicles. The customer name, address and phone number are listed if known. Completed vehicles are removed from Function 53 within several days of repair claim submission. To use this system, type "53" at the "ENTER FUNCTION" prompt, then type "ORD969".

Owner Notification and Service Scheduling

All involved vehicle owners known to DaimlerChrysler are being notified of the service requirement by first class mail. They are requested to schedule appointments for this service with their dealers. A copy of the owner letter is attached.

Enclosed with each owner letter is an Owner Notification Form. The involved vehicle and recall are identified on the form for owner or dealer reference as needed.

Vehicle Not Available

If a vehicle is not available for service, let us know by filling out the pre-addressed Owner Notification Form or describe the reason on a postcard and mail to:

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
CIMS 482-00-85
800 Chrysler Drive East
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326-2757

Additional Information

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this action, please contact your Zone Service Office.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

SAFETY RECALL TO REPLACE YOUR VEHICLE'S TRANSAXLE OIL COOLER HOSES

Dear Sebring or Stratus Coupe Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation has determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some **2001 model year Chrysler Sebring Coupe and Dodge Stratus Coupe vehicles** equipped with an automatic transaxle.

The problem is...

The automatic transaxle oil cooler hoses on your vehicle (identified on the enclosed form) may have been improperly manufactured. Over time, the hoses may deteriorate and leak automatic transmission fluid. Automatic transmission fluid leakage in the presence of an ignition source can result in a vehicle fire.

What DaimlerChrysler and your dealer will do...

DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will replace the transaxle oil cooler hoses on your vehicle. The work will take about 1/2 hour to complete. However, additional time may be necessary depending on how dealer appointments are scheduled and processed.

What you must do to ensure your safety...

- Simply **contact your dealer** right away to schedule a service appointment. Ask the dealer to hold the parts for your vehicle or to order them before your appointment.
- **Bring the enclosed form with you to your dealer.** It identifies the required service to the dealer.

If you need help...

If you have questions or concerns which the dealer is unable to resolve, please contact the DaimlerChrysler Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-853-1403. A representative will assist you.

If you have already experienced the problem described above and have paid to have it repaired, you may send your original receipts and/or other adequate proof of payment to the following address for reimbursement: DaimlerChrysler Customer Assistance Center, P.O. Box 1040, St. Charles, MO 63302-1040, Attention: Recall Center.

If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

We're sorry for any inconvenience, but we are sincerely concerned about your safety. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

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*Buckle up
for Safety*