

**Subject: Safety Recall 26E5/R5
2001 and 2003-2005 Model Year Volkswagen Passat and Passat Wagon (5th Generation) Vehicles
Install Underbody Heat Shields and Inspect/Replace Certain Fuel System Components if Necessary, and
Service Action 66C8/P9
Service Air Plenum Area to Improve Drainage & Install Improved Pollen Filter Seal**

Dear Volkswagen Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Volkswagen has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some 2001 and 2003-2005 model year Volkswagen Passat and Passat Wagon (5th generation) vehicles. Our records show that you are the owner of one of these vehicles.

Safety Recall 26E5/R5

What Is The Problem?

Volkswagen has decided that some 2001 and 2003-2005 model year Volkswagen Passat and Passat Wagon (5th generation) vehicles with automatic transmissions may have an underbody heat shield that can become damaged. If a damaged heat shield contacts the exhaust system, there is risk of fire.

Also, some 4Motion/all wheel drive vehicles can have a fuel tank ventilation valve that can leak due to fracture. Additionally, some manual and automatic transmission vehicles equipped with a 1.8T engine can have a fuel line that may fracture and leak. A fuel leak from a fuel line or fuel tank ventilation valve, in the presence of an ignition source, can lead to a vehicle fire.

What Will Volkswagen Do?

Dealers will install additional underbody heat shields on automatic transmission vehicles to cover the possibly damaged areas and flash affected 1.8T engines with a precautionary software update.

Additionally, dealers will inspect the fuel line routing on 1.8T vehicles and adjust the routing if necessary. Dealers will also inspect the fuel tank ventilation line and valve on 4Motion all-wheel drive vehicles to verify that the line is free of tension. Components will be replaced if necessary.

Precautions You Should Take

Your vehicle can be driven until the inspection/repair is conducted. However, if you can smell fuel in your vehicle, we advise you to proceed immediately to the nearest authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop if you believe it is safe to do so, in order to have the fuel system on your vehicle inspected.

Service Action 66C8/P9

Air Plenum Area Service and Pollen Filter Seal Installation

We are also writing to inform you about a service to the air plenum area that we would like to perform for you at no cost. This service is not related to safety recall 26E5/R5.

On some vehicles, moist debris might clog the air plenum drain area and water could leak into the passenger compartment. In order to prevent this condition, we will inspect, clean and modify the air plenum drain. We will also modify the sunroof drain (if equipped) and install an improved seal for the pollen filter on your vehicle.

Additionally, this condition can be prevented by ensuring that the air plenum area is maintained regularly to keep it clear of dirt and debris. This helps to avoid the water drain holes from becoming blocked, and it prevents water from entering the vehicle through the heating and ventilation ducts. Please refer to your owner's manual for additional information, including important warnings about working in and around the engine compartment and air plenum area.

To help ensure that the air plenum area remains clear in the future, we recommend regular inspection and, when necessary, cleaning of the air plenum area shown in the picture below. Please be sure to keep this letter with your owner's manual so it will be available for future reference.



What We Would Like You to Do

Please contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer and arrange for an appointment without delay.

To help facilitate the repairs, please ensure that your vehicle has ¼ tank or less of fuel on the day of repair, and please be sure to bring all of the vehicle keys to your service appointment.

These services will take about four hours and will be free of charge. Please keep in mind that your dealer may need additional time for the preparation of the repair, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule

Lease Vehicles

If you are the lessor and registered owner of the vehicle identified in this action, the law requires you to forward this information immediately via first-class mail to the lessee within ten (10) days of receipt of this notification

Have You Changed Your Address Or Sold The Vehicle?

If you have, please fill out the enclosed prepaid Owner Reply card and mail it to us so we can update our records.

Reimbursement of Expenses

If you have previously paid for any of the following items listed below, the enclosed form explains how to request reimbursement. We would be pleased to review your reimbursement request.

- ⇒ Replacement of a heat shield because it has become damaged and loose and contacted the exhaust system on an automatic transmission vehicle
- ⇒ Replacement of the fuel line on a 1.8T vehicle due to a fuel leak in the engine compartment
- ⇒ Replacement of the fuel tank on 4Motion all-wheel drive vehicles due to a fuel leak at the ventilation valve

Service Help from Us

If your authorized Volkswagen dealer fails or is unable to complete this work free of charge within a reasonable time, please call or write to:

Volkswagen of America, Inc.
Attn: Customer CARE Center – Hills East (26E5/R5 and 66C8/P9)
3499 West Hamlin Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
1-800-893-5298

If you still cannot obtain satisfaction, you may file a complaint with: The Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We apologize for any inconvenience this matter may cause; however we are taking this action to help ensure your safety and continued satisfaction with your vehicle. Thank you for driving a Volkswagen!

Sincerely,

Volkswagen Product Compliance

Customer Letter Example (U.S.A.) (Vehicles with only 26E5/R5) June 2008

**Subject: Safety Recall 26E5/R5
1999-2002 Model Year Volkswagen Passat and Passat Wagon (5th Generation) Vehicles
Install Underbody Heat Shields and Inspect/Replace Certain Fuel System Components if Necessary**

Dear Volkswagen Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Volkswagen has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some 1999-2002 model year Volkswagen Passat and Passat Wagon (5th generation) vehicles. Our records show that you are the owner of one of these vehicles.

What Is The Problem?

Volkswagen has decided that some 1999-2002 model year Passat and Passat Wagon (5th generation) vehicles with automatic transmissions may have an underbody heat shield that can become damaged. If a damaged heat shield contacts the exhaust system, there is risk of fire.

Also, some 4Motion/all wheel drive vehicles can have a fuel tank ventilation valve that can leak due to fracture. Additionally, some manual and automatic transmission vehicles equipped with a 1.8T engine can have a fuel line that may fracture and leak. A fuel leak from a fuel line or fuel tank ventilation valve, in the presence of an ignition source, can lead to a vehicle fire.

What Will Volkswagen Do?

Dealers will install additional underbody heat shields on automatic transmission vehicles to cover the possibly damaged areas and flash affected 1.8T engines with a precautionary software update.

Additionally, dealers will inspect the fuel line routing on 1.8T vehicles and adjust the routing if necessary. Dealers will also inspect the fuel tank ventilation line and valve on 4Motion all-wheel drive vehicles to verify that the line is free of tension. Components will be replaced if necessary.

Precautions You Should Take

Your vehicle can be driven until the inspection/repair is conducted. However, if you can smell fuel in your vehicle, we advise you to proceed immediately to the nearest authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop if you believe it is safe to do so, in order to have the fuel system on your vehicle inspected.

What We Would Like You to Do

Please contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer and arrange for an appointment without delay.

To help facilitate the repairs, please ensure that your vehicle has ¼ tank or less of fuel on the day of repair, and please be sure to bring all of the vehicle keys to your service appointment.

This service will take about three hours and will be free of charge. Please keep in mind that your dealer may need additional time for the preparation of the repair, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule.

Lease Vehicles

If you are the lessor and registered owner of the vehicle identified in this action, the law requires you to forward this information immediately via first-class mail to the lessee within ten (10) days of receipt of this notification.

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