

Condition

Applicable Vehicles					
Model(s)	Year	Eng. Code	Trans. Code	VIN Range From	VIN Range To
All	2018 - 2026	All	All	All	All

Revision Table			
Instance Number	Published Date	Version Number	Reason For Update
2081638/1	05/19/26	00-26-01	Original publication.

Determining fluid leakage versus seepage.

Technical Background

In some cases, components have been replaced unnecessarily due to incorrect differentiation between acceptable fluid seepage and actual fluid leakage.

Production Solution

N/A.

Service

Actively distinguish between normal fluid seepage and a confirmed fluid leakage condition.

Seepage is the minor migration of fluid through assembled components or sealing interfaces that results in surface wetness or light discoloration, but does not produce fluid droplets, does not drip, and does not lead to measurable fluid loss over time. The area often has a darker or damp appearance compared to the rest of the part and may attract dust or dirt over time.

- If fluid seepage is observed, document the condition and reinspect at the next scheduled service interval. Seepage is a normal condition, and no repair is required unless active leakage is present.

Leakage is the unintended release of fluid from a component or system that results in droplet formation, dripping, or active fluid flow, and may cause measurable fluid loss, contamination of adjacent components, or functional concerns.

- If fluid leakage is observed (active dripping, droplet formation, or puddling), diagnose the source and perform the necessary repair according to repair manual procedures. Verify repair effectiveness after completion.



WARNING

This Technical Bulletin does not apply to fuel systems, hydraulic brake systems, or refrigerant (air conditioning) systems.



NOTICE

If a leak is confirmed and repair is required, the repair must comply with Warranty Policy “VWP-26-06”. Photo documentation is required for warranty eligibility and must be uploaded to Doc-IT upon claim submission. Images must be of the leaking component while installed in the vehicle.

- Refer to Figures 1–7 below for visual examples of fluid seepage.
- Refer to Figures 8–12 below for visual examples of fluid leakage.

Seepage - Figures 1-7:

Figure 1:



Figure 2:



Figure 3:



Figure 4:



Figure 5:



Figure 6:



Figure 7:



NOTICE

Conditions identified as seepage are considered normal and are not covered under warranty. Seepage is considered a cosmetic or non-functional condition and is typically acceptable within design tolerances. Seepage alone does not indicate seal failure or warrant component replacement unless specifically stated otherwise by the repair manual or TSB.

Leakage - Figures 8-12:

Figure 8:



Figure 9:



Figure 10:



Figure 11:



Figure 12:



Warranty

Informational only.

Required Parts and Tools

No Special Parts required.

Additional Information

All part and service references provided in this Technical Bulletin are subject to change and/or removal. Always check with your Parts Dept. and Repair Manuals for the latest information

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