

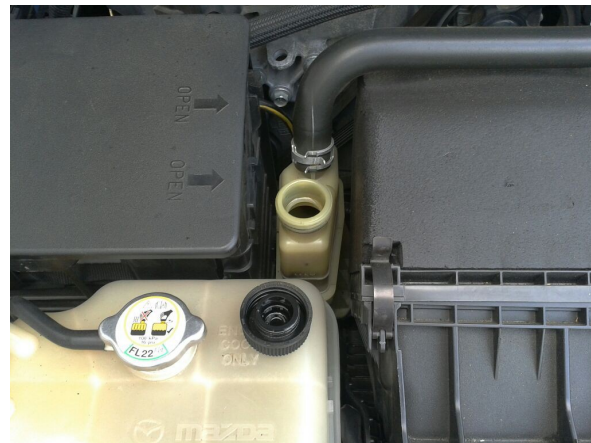
Refreshing your Miata's Power Steering Fluid

For all years of Miatas

If your Miata, or any other car has Power Steering, you may want to read and try this. I checked the Maintenance schedule for my Miata, and it does not specify a time or mileage to change the power steering fluid in the Miata. All it states is to "Inspect, add, or replace as needed". If you believe in the statement that "nothing lasts forever", you might want to try this. The maintenance "Gurus" on Miata.net are suggesting to do this every 5 years!

To properly CHANGE the fluid, you might want to take it to your favorite Garage and have them do it. Most don't like crawling under their car to work on it, nor like to pay the price at the garage either. Below is a inexpensive and easy way to REFRESH the fluid and help give your power steering pump some extended life with a refreshing of new fluid.

See the picture below left for what you need to do this refresh. You need 2 quarts of the fluid and something to suction out the reservoir. The picture below right is of the power steering fluid reservoir for my NC (2006+) Miata. The reservoir for the earlier Miatas power steering is just a little more to the right of this picture. (Drivers side front).



I bought 2 quarts of power steering fluid, and I used the large syringe to the front in the picture to suction the fluid out of the reservoir. But an inexpensive turkey baster with a section of tubing attached to the front will work also. If you stick a section of small tubing in the front of the turkey baster, be sure to tightly wrap some tape around the joint to seal it.

This easy procedure takes a couple weeks to complete. First you suction all of old fluid you can out of the reservoir. Then refill it to the proper level with fresh fluid. Next start the car to be sure the level does not drop as the fluid fills the power steering hoses. Put the lid on the reservoir and drive it for a couple days to a week. You want to drive it enough to mix the new fluid into the old fluid. I did ours every weekend until done.

After driving a couple days, repeat the step above. Suction out the reservoir and refill it to the proper level, Start the car to insure the proper level in the reservoir, put the lid on the reservoir, and drive it a couple more days to a week.

Just keep emptying the reservoir, driving couple days, and refilling until you are near the end of the 2nd quart. You will now have a very high percentage of fresh new fluid in your car.

I did this to my wife's Mazda 626. The fluid was dark from age, and the power steering pump seemed noisy before I did this. The noise was what prompted me to first do this to her car. I kept repeating the steps above until I was about at the end of my 2nd quart on her car. By then the fluid was almost totally clear, and now the pump is a lot quieter.

I did this next to my Miata. The fluid was not really dark in my Miata, but I feel better now knowing the 7 year old fluid has been mostly replaced and I have some fresh fluid in the pump.

It is an easy refresh that should help extend the life of your power steering pump. If you have any questions, feel free to ask.

Zoom – Zoom! Bill Latsha