Crutcher's Auto Repair Inc.

Important Fuel Pump Information

Most fuel injected vehicles use an electric fuel pump located inside the fuel tank of the vehicle as part of the fuel level sensor assembly. One of the primary causes of electric fuel pump failure, according to manufacturers, is failure to keep enough fuel in the fuel tank to cool the unit. This is preventable and relatively simple, just keep at least ¼ tank of gas in your vehicle at all times.

Another major cause of fuel pump failure is not replacing fuel filters. Inline fuel filters gradually become clogged with deposits removed from the fuel headed into your engine and need to be replaced. As the filter clogs it increases the work required by the fuel pump to provide the appropriate amount of fuel to the engine, this increased work results in increased heat and again early failure.

Many people are unaware of fuel filters since the "Tune Up" doesn't really exist in the same form that it did 20 years ago as many components are designed for 100,000 or more miles before service. Not all vehicles have inline fuel filters but most current models do, newer models are relocating the fuel filter into the fuel tank as well which would be serviced with the fuel pump. If your vehicle has an inline filter we suggest replacing it every 30,000 miles.

When we replace fuel pumps we always replace the filter where applicable to prevent repeat failure, if you don't know if your vehicle has an inline filter just ask and we can look it up for you.

Other tips to prevent fuel system problems are:

Burn high quality fuel which meets top tier detergent standards to prevent excess deposits and injector clogging. Check out www.toptiergas.com for more information. The largest local sources for top tier fuel are Shell, Texaco and Chevron. Top tier fuel is endorsed by BMW**,** General Motors**,** Honda**,** Toyota, Volkswagen and Audi

Try to avoid purchasing fuel while the fuel vendors tanks are being filled, just like when you add fuel to your tank, when a fuel stations tanks are refilled it stirs up all the "stuff" in the tanks so any water or debris is more likely to be pumped into your tank until it settles back to the bottom of their tank.

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