



CLUTCHTECH



TSB-CP04

Clutch Problems Caused by Damaged or Missing Bellhousing Dust Covers and Clutch Release Lever Dust Boots

When fitting a new clutch to a vehicle it is essential to ensure that the bellhousing dust cover and clutch release lever dust boot are correctly fitted and undamaged in order to prevent clutch problem; caused by dirt and water ingress into the bellhousing. This is particularly important where vehicles are regularly used on gravel roads, farms, beaches or construction sites.

Dirt and water ingress into the bellhousing will cause contamination of the driven plate, cover and assembly and release mechanism, resulting in clutch shudder, non-release, slipping, noise and hard pedal action problems in the vehicle. Any evidence of rust, sand deposits, grass or twigs inside the bellhousing will indicate that the dust covers are damaged and are unable to seal the bellhousing properly. It should also be noted that dirt and water ingress can result in severe starter motor wear and damage.

The bellhousing dust cover is usually a thin metal pressing, casting or plastic moulding fitted between the engine and gearbox of the vehicle. The clutch release lever dust boot is a rubber or plastic moulding fitted around the clutch release lever in the bellhousing. Both dust covers should be carefully inspected and correctly fitted in order to ensure that dirt or water cannot enter the bellhousing. The dust covers are easily distorted or cracked, and care should be taken to ensure that both covers seal the bellhousing properly.

It must be noted that some vehicles, in particular four-wheel-drive vehicles, require that the bellhousing dust cover and clutch release lever dust boot are fitted with a sealant such as silicone gasket sealer in order to ensure that the bellhousing is completely watertight.

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