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**NOTE:** Always dispose of used fluids in a responsible manner. Follow your community's standards for disposing of these types of fluids. Call your local recycling center to find out about recycling automotive fluids.

## Precautions When Servicing Your Vehicle

Be especially careful when inspecting or servicing your vehicle. Here are some general precautions for your safety:

- Do not work on a hot engine. The engine cooling fan may come on unexpectedly. Always turn the engine off and let it cool.

 <b>WARNING</b>
<b>The cooling fan is automatic and may come on at any time. Always disconnect the negative terminal of the battery before working near the fan.</b>

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If you disconnect the battery, the engine must “relearn” its idle conditions before your vehicle will drive properly. To find out how the engine does this, see *Battery* in this chapter.

***Working with the engine off:***

1. Set the parking brake fully, block the wheels, and make sure that the gearshift is securely latched in P (Park) (automatic transmission) or 1 (First) (manual transmission).
2. Remove the key from the ignition after you turn the engine off.
3. Block the wheels. This will prevent your vehicle from moving unexpectedly.

***Working with the engine on:***

1. Set the parking brake fully, and make sure that the gearshift is securely latched in P (Park) (automatic transmission) or Neutral (manual transmission).
2. Block the wheels. This will prevent your vehicle from moving unexpectedly.

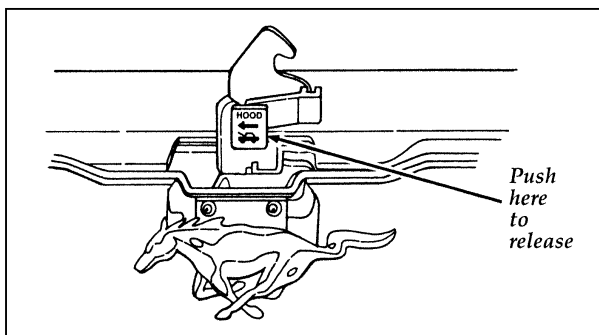
**⚠ WARNING**

Start your engine with the hood removed and do not run the engine while the engine is running.

### Hood

To open the hood on the vehicle, pull the hood release under the lower left instrument panel.

Walk to the front of the vehicle and push the auxiliary catch through the hole in the front edge of the hood. Push the catch to the center of the vehicle.



The auxiliary catch under the front edge of the hood

3. Lift the hood and secure it with the prop rod using only the hole marked "PROP".

Whenever you close the hood, make sure the prop rod is secured in its retainer and that the hood latches securely.

**NOTE: Apply lubricant to the hood latch at six-month intervals to maintain smooth and trouble-free operation.**

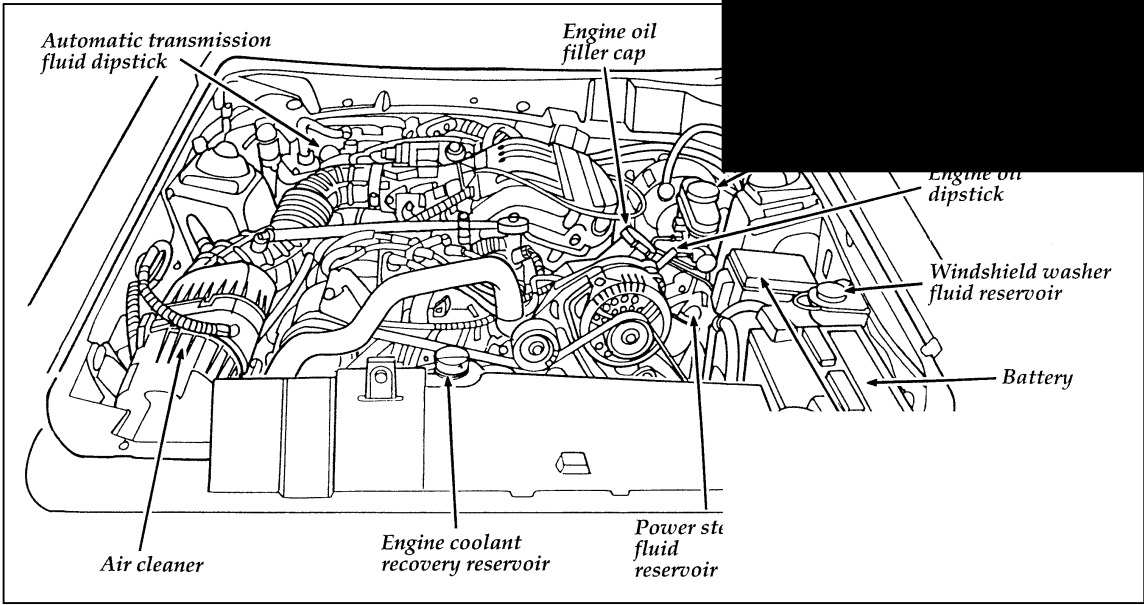
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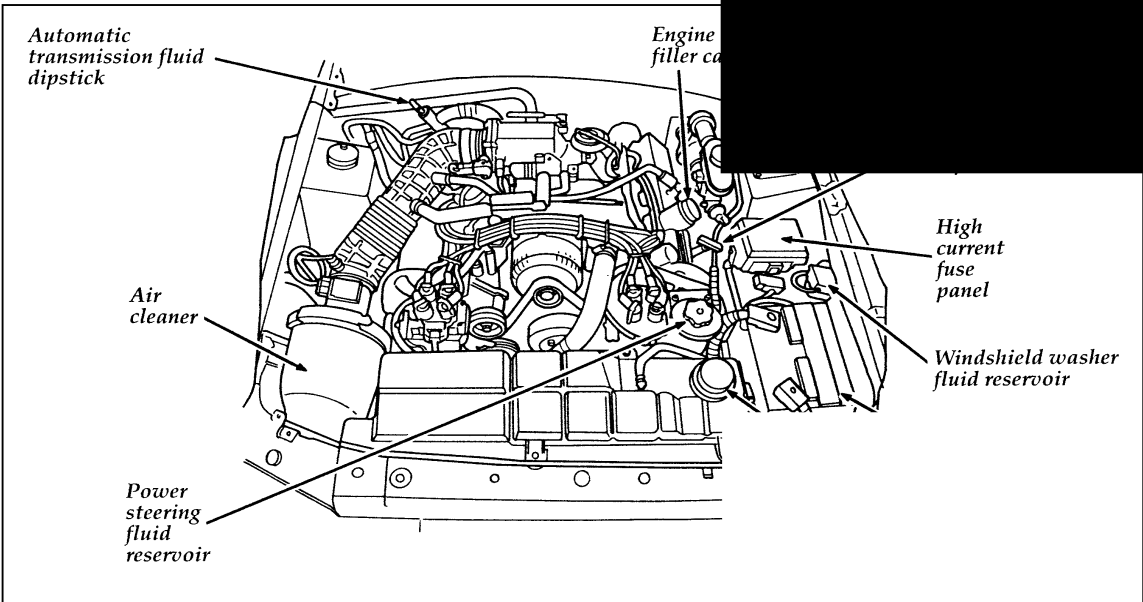
SFI engine

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A 4.6 Liter (2V) engine — GT models



## Engine

The engine is more efficient when clean. Grease and dirt acts as an insulator, keeping the engine warmer than it should be.

Water must be used if cleaning the engine. Turf or high-pressure water can penetrate sealed parts, causing damage or corrosion.

To avoid possible cracks, avoid high-pressure water on the fuel injection system, engine or injectors.

- The alternator, distributor and spark plug wires must be covered. Covering these components will help prevent water damage.
- Never wash or rinse the engine while it is running. Water getting into the engine may cause internal damage.

## Filling the Fuel Tank

The fuel door is outside the car on the passenger side near the back. To fill the fuel tank:

1. After opening the fuel filler door, remove the cap carefully and slowly by turning it counterclockwise 1/2 to 3/4 turn.

### WARNING

**The fuel system may be under pressure. If the fuel cap is venting vapor or if you hear a hissing sound while disengaging the fuel cap, wait until it stops before completely removing the cap. Otherwise, fuel may spray out and injure you or others.**

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**If you spill any fuel on  
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fuel door closed.

### **⚠️ WARNING**

**If you lose the fuel cap, replace it with a Motorcraft or equivalent fuel cap. If you do not use the proper fuel cap, the pressure in the fuel tank can damage the fuel system or cause it to work improperly in a collision, endangering you and your passengers.**

**NOTE: If you replace your fuel cap with an aftermarket fuel filler cap, the customer warranty may be void for any damage to the fuel tank and/or fuel system.**

## **Choosing the Right Fuel**

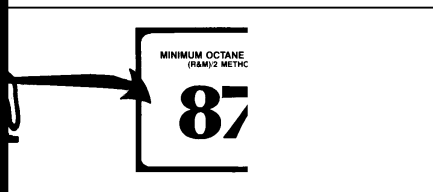
Use only UNLEADED FUEL in your vehicle. Using leaded fuel is prohibited by federal law. Your warranty may not apply if your vehicle is damaged because you used the wrong fuel.

Using a high-quality fuel makes your vehicle more responsive and maintain its good fuel economy and emissions. It should not be necessary to add any aftermarket products to your fuel tank if you continue to use a high-quality fuel.



### **Recommendations**

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Using a fuel with a lower octane rating can cause persistent and heavy knocking, which can damage the engine.

Do not be concerned if your vehicle sometimes knocks lightly when you drive up a hill or when you accelerate. However, see your dealer or a qualified service technician if persistent heavy knocking occurs because this can damage the engine.

If your vehicle has problems with starting, rough idle or hesitation problems when the engine is cold, it may be caused by fuel with low volatility. Try a different brand of fuel. If the condition persists, see your dealer or a qualified service technician.

### ***Gasolines for clean air***

Fuels in certain areas of the country are required to contain oxygenates to improve air quality. Common oxygenates are ethanol or grain alcohol (blended at no more than 10%), methanol or wood alcohol (blended at no more than 5% with cosolvents and additives), and MTBE or methyl tertiary butyl ether (blended at no more than 15%).

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### Information Relating t

#### **⚠ WARNING**

**These fuels can cause serious injury if misused or mishandled. To minimize the risk that you will be injured, please read the following information carefully and observe the recommended precautions.**

- Turn vehicle off when refueling
- Do not smoke when refueling. Fuels are extremely flammable.
- Do not siphon any fuel by mouth.

#### **⚠ WARNING**

**Gasoline or gasoline blended with methanol can cause blindness and possible death when swallowed. If any fuel is swallowed, call a physician or poison control center immediately.**

- Avoid breathing vapors while refueling.
- If fuel is splashed on the skin, wash with soap and water.
- If fuel is splashed in the eyes, remove contact lenses (if worn), flush with water for 15 minutes, and seek medical attention.

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### Running Out of Fuel

**NOTE: Avoid running out of fuel because this situation may have an adverse effect on modern powertrain components.**

You may need to crank the engine several times before the fuel system starts to pump fuel from the tank to the engine.

### Calculating Fuel Economy

Fuel economy is an estimate of the efficiency of your vehicle, and can be calculated as Miles Per Gallon (MPG) or Liters Per 100 Kilometers (L/100K).

Do not calculate fuel economy during your vehicle's break-in period. This would not be an accurate estimate of how much fuel your vehicle will normally use.

To calculate fuel economy:

1. Fill the fuel tank completely and record the initial odometer reading.
2. Every time you buy fuel, record the amount (in gallons or liters) purchased.