

Fitting instructions

ERA Benelux Steering Racks

1. Checklist:

Have you...

1. replaced the power steering hoses ? (recommended after 5 years)
2. replaced the power steering filter? (where applicable)
3. replaced the tie rod ends ? (recommended)
4. replaced the coupling (between steering column and steering rack) ?(recommended)
5. the correct diagnosis ? Isn't a faulty steering pumps not causing a leakage in the steering racks e.g.?
6. flushed the power steering system thoroughly? (IMPORTANT, instructions hereunder)

2. Important information and tips:

FLUSHING THE SYSTEM

Refer to manufacturer's specifications to determine the proper fluid to be used in the power steering system.

Malfunctions in the steering system are mainly caused by :

- Hose residue in the system.
Power steering hoses deteriorate from the "inside-out". Rubber residue may block the steering system.
General rule: replace power steering hoses after five years.
- A faulty steering pump.
Metal debris from the pump may cause seals to blow almost immediately after installing a new power steering rack.

HOW TO FLUSH THE SYSTEM:

1. After removing the rack from the car , place the high pressure hose from the power steering pump into a waste container.
2. Fill the pump reservoir with fresh oil – crank the engine – continue filling until the fluid coming from the pump outlet is running clean. **DO NOT RUN THE PUMP DRY!** (without oil).
You will need assistance from a colleague who fills up the reservoir while you are cranking and shutting down the engine on his sign.
3. Reconnect all hoses after fitting the steering rack (refer to manufacturer's specifications for correct torque, over tightening the lines may cause damage to the port holes). Do not fit the low pressure hose from the pump yet but put it into a waste container.
4. Fill the pump reservoir with oil again – crank the engine – and again continue filling until the fluid coming from the pump outlet is running clean. **AGAIN DO NOT RUN THE PUMP DRY!**. (This second flush will remove test fluid and other debris).
5. Close the system (meaning that you connect the hose you just used for flushing).
6. Finally the system needs bleeding. With the vehicle on the bridge (no weight on the wheels), engine running and OPEN reservoir, you will cycle the steering wheel a couple of times from left to right.
After lowering the car from the bridge you repeat the procedure of cycling the steering wheel.
7. Fill the reservoir if necessary.
8. After aligning, please make sure the boots are still in the correct position.(Water and dirt may enter the boots and contaminate the rack bar)

TIP: Some Ford applications are difficult to bleed and the result is a "growling" type of noise. Make sure all fittings are airtight by loosening slightly and re-tightening. In extreme cases, it may be necessary to use a vacuum pump to bleed the system.

3. Old unit returns.

Old unit part numbers will only be accepted against units carrying the same part number, i.e. like for like. All units must be returned undamaged and complete.

Credit will not be given against old units with the following defects :

1. Damaged external casing / casting
2. Damaged mounting brackets / bolt holes
3. Seized or rusted internal components
4. Incomplete assemblies
5. Racks supplied with inner tie rods, have to be returned with undamaged tie rods.