
2017 Subaru Outback 2.5i CVT - Coolant Drain and Refill

Printable procedure summary for driveway service

Tools and supplies

3 gallons Subaru Super Coolant premix
1 bottle Subaru Cooling System Conditioner
1 radiator drain plug O-ring if replacing it
Spill-free coolant funnel kit
Large drain pan
Rags / paper towels
Flat screwdriver or Phillips screwdriver for splash shield clips as needed
10 mm socket for undertray / access panels as needed
Pliers for hose clamps if you choose to pull a hose instead of using the radiator drain
Jack, jack stands or ramps
Wheel chocks
Gloves and eye protection

Specs

- Coolant type: Subaru Super Coolant
- Capacity: 8.2 US qt (7.8 L) for 2.5L CVT
- Subaru says to add Cooling System Conditioner whenever coolant is replaced.

Procedure

1. Park the vehicle on a level surface and let the engine cool completely.
2. Set the parking brake and chock the wheels.
3. Raise the front if needed and remove the lower splash shield for access.
4. Remove the radiator cap only when the engine is fully cool.
5. Position a large drain pan under the radiator drain.
6. Open the plastic radiator drain at the lower passenger-side area of the radiator and let the coolant drain out.

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7. When the flow slows, close the drain gently. Do not overtighten the plastic drain.
 8. Install your spill-free funnel on the radiator neck.
 9. Pour in fresh Subaru Super Coolant slowly.
 10. Add the required Subaru Cooling System Conditioner.
 11. Fill until the funnel / radiator level stabilizes.
 12. Fill the overflow reservoir to the FULL mark.
 13. Start the engine with the heater set to HOT and the fan on low.
 14. Let the engine idle and watch for bubbles in the funnel.
 15. As the thermostat opens and the coolant level drops, add more coolant as needed.
 16. Squeeze the upper radiator hose carefully a few times to help move trapped air.
 17. Continue until the engine reaches operating temperature, the cooling fans cycle, and bubbling mostly stops.
 18. Shut the engine off and let it cool fully.
 19. Remove the funnel, top off the radiator if needed, and reinstall the radiator cap.
 20. Recheck the overflow reservoir and set it to FULL once the engine is cold.
 21. Inspect for leaks around the drain and hoses.
 22. Dispose of old coolant properly.

Notes

- *This is a drain-and-refill, not a full machine flush.*
- *Because the system capacity is 8.2 qt, actual refill amount may be a bit less than the full listed capacity depending on how much drained from the system.*
- *Torque for the plastic radiator drain was not included because I did not find a trustworthy public factory spec. Treat it as snug only and do not overtighten.*