

**Wheels:** An e-mail from Larry in Beavercreek asks, “Lately, I’ve been hearing about a transmission flushing service, as an alternative to dropping the pan and replacing that fluid and the filter. The flush supposedly replaces all the fluid (not just what is in the pan) and even partially flushes the filter itself. In your opinion, is this a good method or is it better to stick with the “old-fashioned” way? I should mention that our current vehicles are all front-wheel-drive with transverse mounted engines. When I have dropped the pan on a 1994 Taurus we used to have, for example, there seemed to be no obvious way to get any additional transmission fluid out of the converter. Maybe in these cases, the new flush method is better?”

**Halderman:** Flushing machines do an excellent job of replacing all of the old fluid with new. I recommend that the pan be removed (if applicable) and the filter be replaced after the flush as an extra measure. An alternative method involves changing the fluid and filter, thereby replacing about 20% to 30% of the fluid in the system. Then drive the vehicle until it reaches normal operating pressure using all gear selector positions, including normal low and reverse. Change the fluid a second time and repeat the process a third time. This method will change about all of the old fluid in the system.

