Fuel Filter Replacement

Necessary Items:
• Fuel filter
  My 2002 model works with the following filters:
  • Ford 1L2Z-9155-BA
  • Baldwin BF7803
  • Motorcraft FG1039
  • Purolator F65486
  • Wix 33667
  I went with the Purolator filter, about $12 at most auto parts stores. As I found, even among my model year there were variations on what filter was shipped with the ST. Best thing to do is check to see what filter you are currently using and buy the same or compatible filter.

• Fuel line disconnect tool
  I purchased the OEM Industrial part #25043 for about $4, available at any auto parts store. Any brand disconnect tool though that handles 3/8” and 5/16” should work.

• Rag and Safety Goggles
  • Rag to catch fuel spillage when removing filter and safety goggles to prevent anything from falling into your eye sockets causing excruciating pain.
Safety precautions:
• **Do not smoke or have any sort of open flame nearby** while performing this project.
• Relieve the fuel pressure in the lines to prevent fuel from shooting out into your face once you disconnect the lines from the filter.
  • In your engine compartment right behind the battery is the power distribution box.
  • Pull the fuel pump motor fuse (#23 20 amp fuse) as shown in the picture below.
  • Turn the key and crank the engine a few times to relieve the pressure.
Locate the fuel filter.
- The fuel filter can be found in the drivers side frame rail about 3 1/2 feet back from the front of the truck and about 1 1/2 ft in from the side of the truck.
- There is an intake and return line leading in to rear of the filter and a fuel line leading out from the filter to the engine.

Disconnect the fuel lines
- Begin by removing the retaining clips. Squeeze the ends and slide the clip towards the filter and then pull off the line.
• If you need more room to work in, you might be better off to first remove the filter out of the bracket. To do this, gently pry apart the bracket and roll out the filter.

• I began by disconnecting the outlet line to the engine. Take the fuel line disconnect tool and slide it over the fuel filter where the fuel line connects to the filter.

• The end of the tool should slide in to the fuel line and disengage the internal clips that secure the line to the filter.

• You should hear or feel a click once the internal retaining clips disengage and you should then be able to slide the fuel line off the filter.

• If you relieved the pressure first, only a little bit of fuel will leak out of the fuel line. There will be some fuel coming out of the filter itself. Try to use a rag or cap the ends to prevent the fuel from spilling all over you.

• Use the same end of the tool to disconnect the middle inlet on one side and the middle outlet on the other side. You will have to use the other end for the return line as it is slightly larger in diameter.

Tip: Once you have inserted the tool, wiggle the fuel line over the tool to help disconnect the internal clips.
Install New Filter

• Insert the new filter into the filter bracket. There is usually an arrow printed on the filter itself which signifies fuel flow. Make sure this arrow points towards the engine.

• Reconnect the lines by inserting the filter into the fuel lines openings until you hear/feel a click. Make sure that line is secure by pulling on the metal end of the fuel line making sure it does not come off.
• Reattach the clips to the fuel line making sure that they slide into the ends of the fuel line openings.

• Insert the fuel pump motor fuse back into the power distribution box.

• Put the key into the ignition and start the engine. It might take a few seconds longer than normal for the ST to start up as fuel is making its way back into the engine.

• Check for leaks. Drive it around, then check for leaks again.

If this is the your first time changing your fuel filter yourself (as it was mine) give yourself plenty of time, as disconnecting the fuel lines can be somewhat tricky. Hopefully in the future the time it will take to complete this project will be significantly less. This project took me about an hour to complete and on the difficulty scale, I’d give it 2 wrenches. Good luck, be safe, and have fun!

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