

Mercury Switch Removal Procedures

From Vehicle Hood and Trunk Lights

Spring 2002

Note: This is only a partial listing of vehicles with mercury switches and uses. Any additional questions concerning switch removal? Please call Tom Benoit at 1-800-974-9559 or at 802-241-3472.

We would like to thank EPA Region 5 for allowing us to reprint this educational material.
<http://www.epa.gov/region5/air/mercury/autoswitch.htm>



This booklet has been provided for the Auto Salvage Outreach Program through a partnership between the VT Department of Environmental Conservation's Environmental Assistance Division and Vermont Solid Waste Management Districts and Alliances.

MERCURY SWITCH USE IN DOMESTIC AUTOMOBILES

Vehicle Make	Vehicle Year(s)	Vehicle Model
Ford	1974 - 1994	Tempo Escort LTD F250 Ranger Taurus Crown Victoria Thunderbird Topaz Bronco II Cougar
Buick	1977 - 1990	LeSabre Regal Park Avenue Celebrity Skyhawk Skylark Century Firenza
Pontiac	1984 - 1990	Sunbird Bonneville Grand Am
Oldsmobile	1977 - 1990	Cutlass Ciera Cutlas Supreme Calais Toronado Regency Delta
Chevrolet	1981 - 1990	Beretta Caprice Lumina
Chrysler	1975 - 1994	New Yorker Le Baron Shadow Cordoba Laser Reliant Sundance Aries
Cadillac	1979	DeVille Cimarron
Audi	1984	Make Not Available

Table from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Automotive Shredder Residue Report.

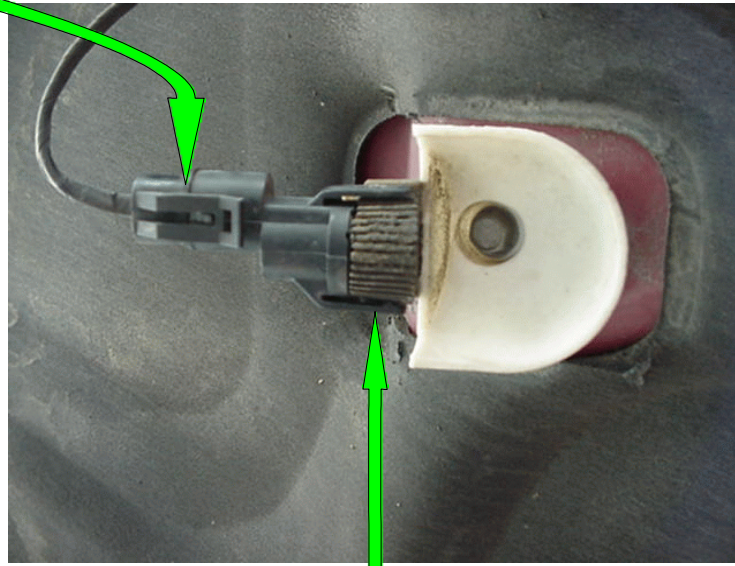
INTERNATIONAL AUTOMAKERS MERCURY USE

Manufacturer	Model	Use	Period of Use	Phase-Out
BMW	All	Batteries/Switches	Ended in 1992	
	7-Series	Xenon Headlamps	1995 -	No Current Plans
Fiat	Alfa Romeo 164	None		
	Spider	None		
	Ferrari	None		
Honda	All	None		
Isuzu	All	None		
Land Rover	All	None (Possibly batteries for keyless entry systems)		
Mazda	All	G Sensor for ABS	Ended in 1992	
Mercedes	All	Acceleration sensors for airbags, ABS, seat belts, and active suspensions	Ended in 1992	
Mitsubishi	Galant 4WD	ABS G Sensor	1989 - 1993	
	Expo 4WD	ABS G Sensor	1992 - 1994	
	Expo LRV 4WD	ABS G Sensor	1992 - 1994	
	3000 GT 4WD	ABS G Sensor	1991 - 1994	
Nissan	1996 Pathfinder 4WD	ABS Sensor	With introduction of Std ABS in '96	End of '96 MY
Porsche	944	Underhood Lamp Switch	1985 - 1991	
Rolls Royce	All	Underhood Lamp Switch	Ended mid 1960's	
		Batteries	Ended in 1993	
Saab	9000	Engine Comp. Light	Ended with '91 MY	
	9000/900	Luggage Comp. Light	Ended with '91 MY	
	900 Convertible	Heated Rear Window	Ended with '91 MY	
Subaru	Legacy AWD (Manual Trans)	G Sensor for ABS	Beginning of Prod.	Nov '95
	All Impreza Models	G Sensor for ABS	Beginning of Prod.	End of MY'96
Suzuki	All	None		
Toyota	All	Air Bag Sensor	Ended in 1992	
Volvo	240/260	Eng. Comp. Lamp	1975 - 1990	
	240/260	Luggage Comp. Lamp	1975 - 1991	
	740/760	Eng. Comp. Lamp	1982 - 1990	
	744/764	Luggage Comp. Lamp	1982 - 1991	
	740/760	Make Up Mirror	1986 - 1989	
	940	Make Up Mirror	1986 - 1991	
	740/760	Air Bag Sensor	1987 - 1992	
	940/960	Air Bag Sensor	1987 - 1992	
	240	Air Bag Sensor	1988 - 1993	

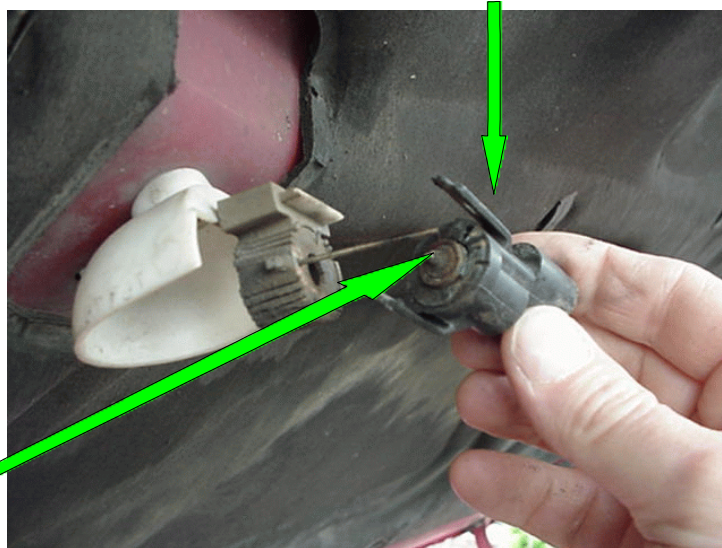
Source: Letter from AIAM to Michigan DEQ, 1996.

Removal and Replacement of Mercury Switch in 1985-1995 Chrysler Hood Lighting Assembly

1. Remove the wiring clip from the back of assembly by sliding a screwdriver under the clip and sliding the clip back to remove the power source



2. Remove the mercury switch holder from the back of the lighting assembly by sliding a screwdriver under the two wing clips and pulling until the switch holder clears the copper rod on the attached section

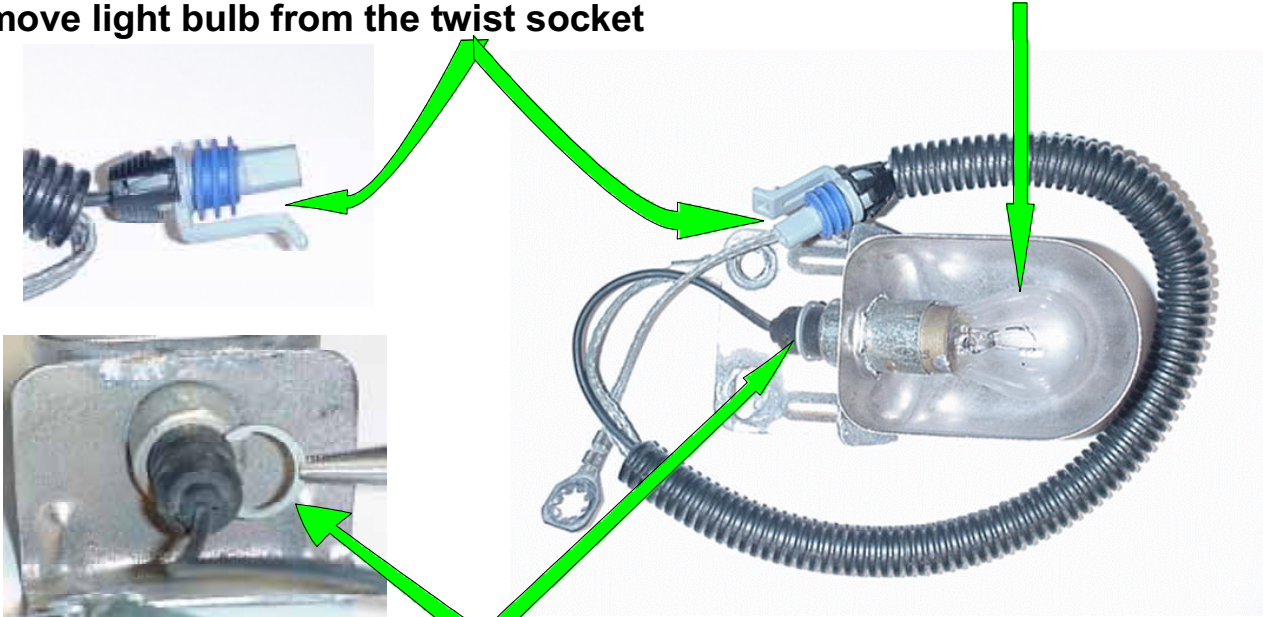


3. Remove the mercury switch from the back of the lighting assembly by hand and replace it with a ball-bearing switch. Put the assembly back together by doing steps 2 and 1 in reverse

* Most Chrysler products have molded lighting assemblies where the mercury switch cannot be replaced. The type seen in this document is found in 1985-1995 Jeeps, Chrysler /Dodge trucks, and some SUVs

Removal and Replacement of Mercury Switch in 1970-1998 GM Hood Lighting Assembly

1. Remove the wiring clip by sliding a screwdriver under the clip and sliding the clip back to remove the power source and then remove light bulb from the twist socket



2. Remove the clip that secures the mercury switch holder in the lighting assembly by pulling the clip off with a pair of needle nose pliers



3. Remove the mercury switch holder by pushing it from the wire end into the dome reflector

4. Remove the spring from switch holder by sliding it off



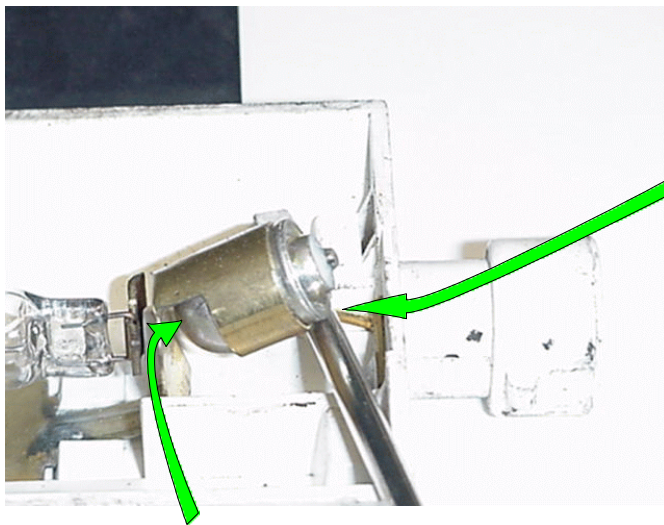
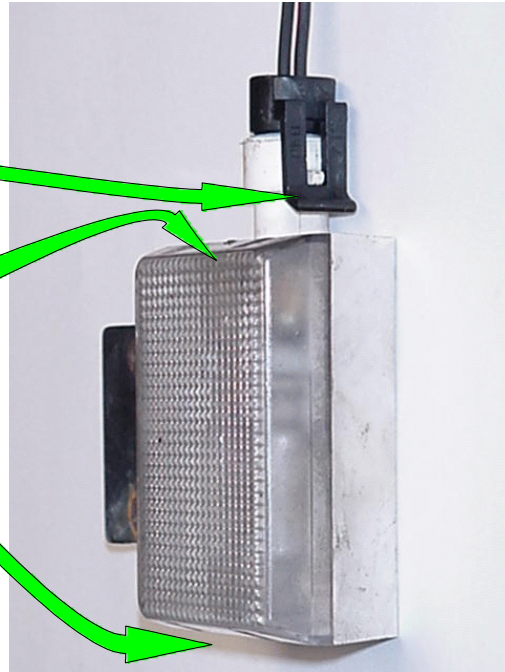
5. Pry the plastic switch holder apart along the center line using a screwdriver and replace the mercury switch with a ball-bearing switch, oriented with the rounded end toward the flanged end of the plastic holder.

Snap the two-piece casing together, and do steps 4, 3, 2, & 1 in reverse to complete the replacement. This entire procedure can be done without removing the lighting assembly from the vehicle, or the assembly can be removed using a 1/4" hex driver to remove two fasteners that hold the unit.

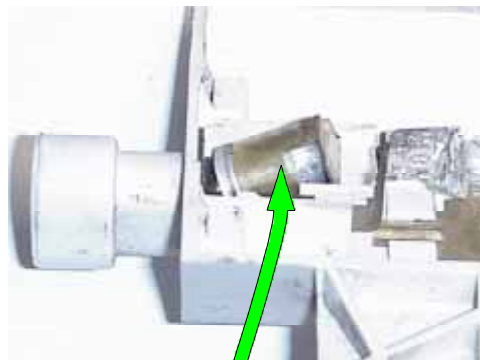
Removal and Replacement of Mercury Switch in 1980-1998 GM Rectangular Hood Lighting Assembly

1. Remove the wiring clip by sliding a screwdriver under the clip and sliding the clip back to remove the power source

2. Remove the clear plastic dome by gently squeezing the center of the dome on the short sides with thumb and forefinger



3. Pry up the mercury switch holder with a small screwdriver



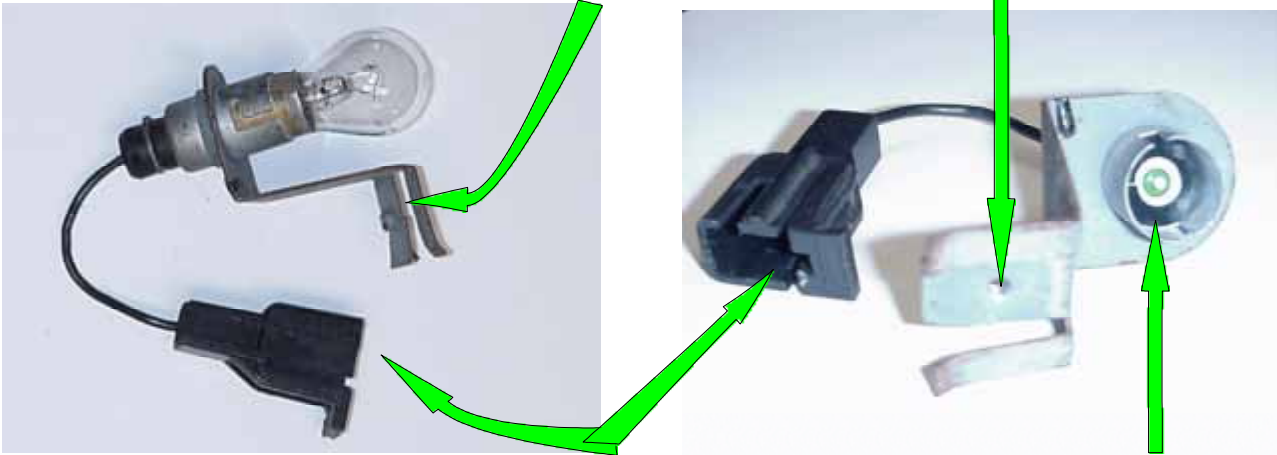
4. Push the mercury switch out of the holder using a screwdriver and replace the mercury switch with a ball-bearing switch oriented as shown

5. Push the mercury switch holder back into place with a screwdriver and adjust the position of the switch to have the center conductor touch the copper strip on the assembly wall

Do steps 2, & 1 in reverse to complete the replacement. This entire procedure can be done without removing the lighting assembly from the vehicle

Removal and Replacement of Mercury Switch in 1970-1998 GM Trunk Lighting Assembly

1. Locate the lighting assembly in a recess adjacent to the trunk latch. Use a 7 mm hex driver to remove the single fastener that holds the assembly. Pull the entire assembly out of the recess hole.

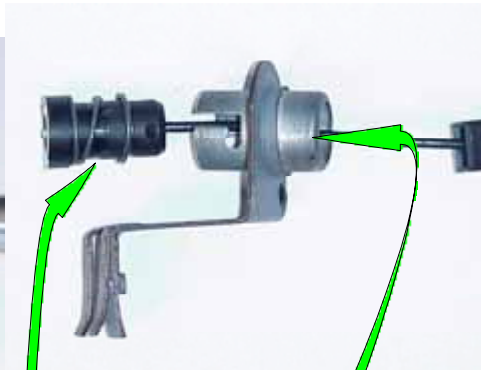


2. Remove the power source by pulling the lighting assembly connector out of its mating connector by hand

3. Remove the bulb from the assembly by pressing down and twisting counterclockwise



4. Remove the clip that secures the mercury switch holder by pulling the clip off with a pair of needle nose pliers



5. Remove the mercury switch holder by pushing it out of the assembly from the wired end

6. Remove the spring from the switch holder by sliding it off



7. Pry the plastic switch holder apart along the center line using a screwdriver and replace the mercury switch with a ball-bearing switch oriented with the rounded end toward the wire contact of the plastic holder.

Snap the two-piece casing together, and do steps 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, & 1 in reverse to complete the replacement.

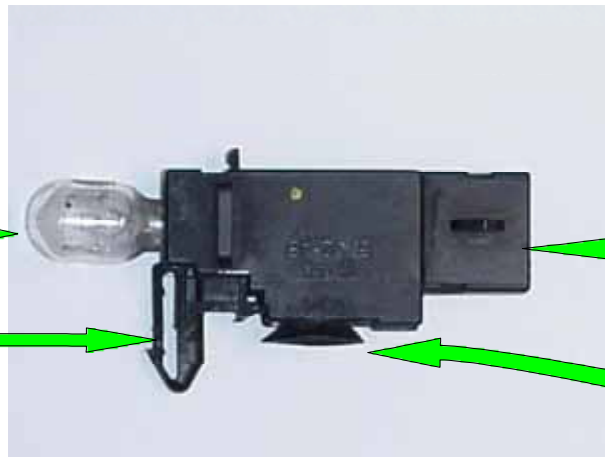
Removal and Replacement of Mercury Switch in Ford Hood and Trunk Lighting Assembly

1. Remove wiring clip from back of assembly by sliding a screwdriver under clip and sliding clip back

2. Remove bulb

3. Compress front two-part arrow shaped leg near bulb with screwdriver and pull out of mounting hole.

4. Slide the slotted center mounting assembly off plastic brace



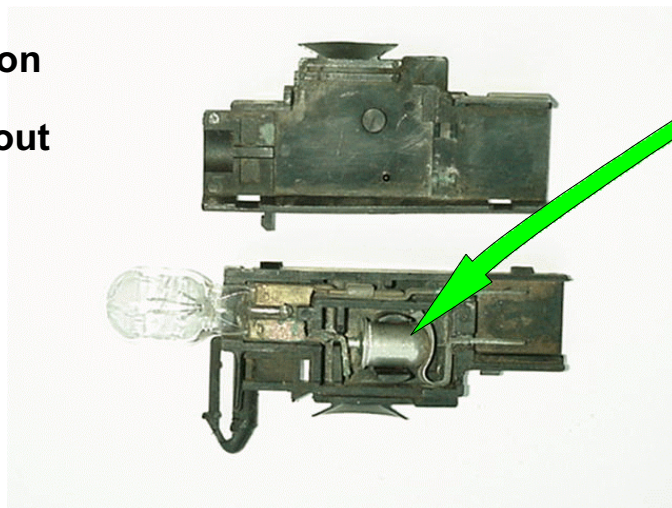
5. Slide screwdriver between two-part case at rear of assembly to open rear latch

6. Move screwdriver to position shown and apply upward motion to pop front latching leg out



7. Use screwdriver to pry out mercury switch

8. Place ball-bearing switch in position with same orientation

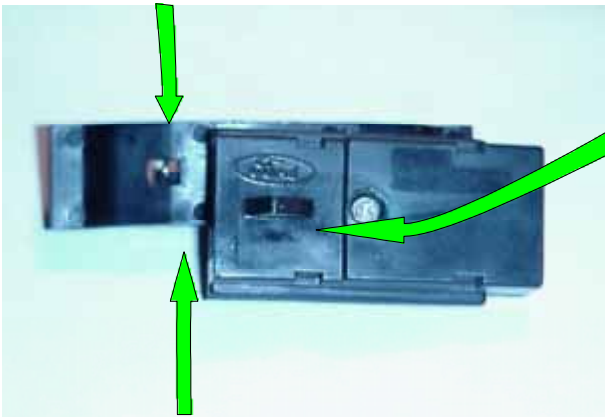


9. Snap the two-piece casing together

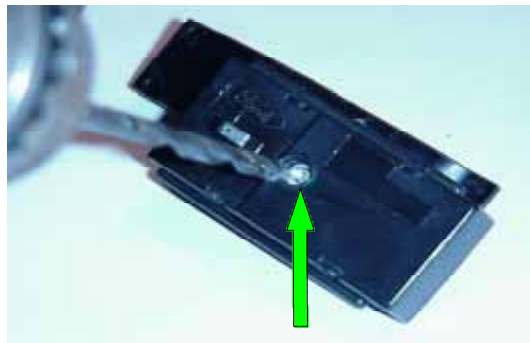
10. Put the assembly back in place by reversing steps 4,3,1 and 2

Removal and Replacement of Mercury Switch in 1998 Ford Trunk Lighting Assembly

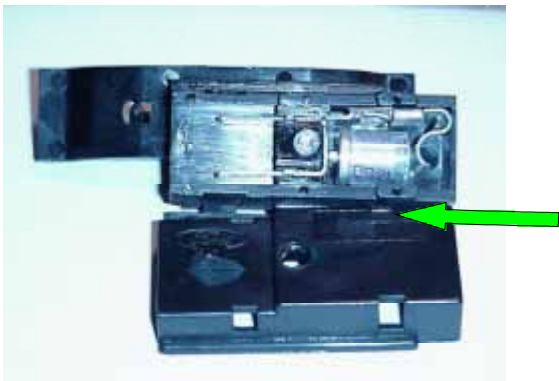
1. Locate the lighting assembly on the drivers side trunk lid arm. Use a screwdriver to pry the assembly fastener off the trunk lid arm.



2. Remove the power source by lifting the wiring connector over the tab and pulling the wiring harness off the lighting assembly.



3. Remove the bulb from the assembly by pulling it from socket

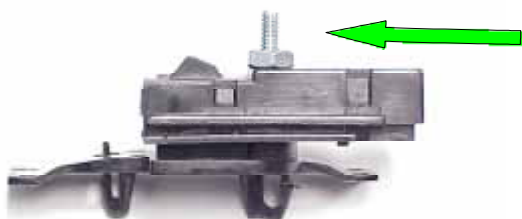


4. Use a drill with a 3/8" bit to remove the head of the pop-rievet that secures the two halves of the assembly.

5. Pry the plastic casing apart using a straight blade screwdriver and remove the mercury switch



6. Remove the plastic insulator from the mercury switch and place it on the ball-bearing switch. Replace the new switch with the insulator in the assembly using the same orientation as in step 5.



7. Remove the old pop rivet. Snap the casing back together. Then use a 1" #8-32 bolt and #8-32 nut to replace the pop-rievet and tighten to secure the assembly. Snap the assembly back into place, reattach wiring clip, and insert bulb. Verify that the switch is actuating properly.