



Diagnosis Brief
what this complaint usually turns out to be

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Data as of July 2026

fixdozer.com/symptoms/transmission-fluid-leak/

Transmission Fluid Leaking — What It Is, and What It Costs

How real visits for a transmission fluid leak ended at independent shops across the US — the part actually replaced, how often, and what it cost when it was the only fix.

Gasket / seal

The single most common outcome — about a third of these visits when combined with the runner-up

Gasket / seal **\$65 – \$444**

Transmission service **\$186 – \$464**

typical cost when it was the only fix
(parts + labor)

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Gasket / seal	29.7%	\$65 – \$444	\$188
Transmission service	13.4%	\$186 – \$464	\$285
Hose	11.5%	\$103 – \$387	\$207
Oil cooler / lines	11.4%	\$242 – \$582	\$376
Transmission	10.9%	\$214 – \$1,466	\$384
CV axle / driveshaft	6.2%	\$211 – \$612	\$355
Radiator	4.4%	\$189 – \$624	\$401
Power steering	3.4%	\$142 – \$510	\$289
Oil pan	3.3%	\$239 – \$592	\$388
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — axle seals, output shaft seals, transmission pans, valve body covers	varies	—

*Share of visits whose repair involved this part; combined repairs count toward each part, so shares overlap and don't add to 100%.

†Middle half of real invoices when this was the only fix — parts + labor, all vehicle types.

WHICH ONE IS YOURS? LISTEN FIRST

- **Pan gasket and seals** — The pan gasket and the axle or output seals are the leading outcomes — age hardens them until they weep.
- **Cooler lines** — Transmission fluid runs to a cooler at the radiator through lines whose crimped ends fail with age — a leak that shows at the front of the car instead of the middle, and a regular finding in these visits.
- **Why not to wait** — Low fluid shows up as delayed engagement, a shudder, or slipping between gears — and slipping does permanent damage.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

Expect the area cleaned and the source confirmed — pan gaskets, seals and cooler lines lead, and none of them is a transmission. A pan gasket often becomes a filter-and-fluid service in the same visit. Don't drive it low: a slipping transmission is permanent damage.

ABOUT THIS DATA · HOW TO USE THIS BRIEF

Vehicles **all makes and models, US fleet**

Data confidence **High** — *large sample, stable shares*

Records through **July 2026**, refreshed continuously

Source **paid invoices from independent US repair shops**

Take it to the shop. It tells you what the likely answers are and what each one should cost — so when the diagnosis comes back, you already know whether the number fits. Vehicle-specific price reports for the common fixes are on fixdozer.com.

NOT A DIAGNOSIS This brief describes how other owners' visits for a transmission fluid leak ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.

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