



Power Steering Problems — What It Usually Is

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

Power steering

The single most common outcome — nearly half of these visits when combined with the runner-up

Power steering **\$142 – \$510**

Hose **\$103 – \$387**

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

THE FIX INVOLVED	SHARE OF THESE VISITS*	TYPICAL COST†	MEDIAN
Power steering	73.0%	\$142 – \$510	\$289
Hose	11.7%	\$103 – \$387	\$207
Steering component	8.0%	\$195 – \$629	\$357
Serpentine belt	6.9%	\$120 – \$292	\$182
Rack & pinion	5.9%	\$502 – \$1,300	\$839
Tie rod	4.2%	\$222 – \$504	\$329
Drive belt	3.1%	\$111 – \$321	\$185
Pump	2.8%	\$182 – \$624	\$333
Other, rarer causes	smaller shares — steering racks, reservoirs, belts, electric steering modules	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

- **Whine that rises with RPM** — A groaning pump low on fluid whines first — top-up quiets it briefly, but the fluid went somewhere.
- **Heavy steering** — Steering that goes heavy — especially at parking speeds — is the pump giving up or the belt driving it slipping.
- **Fluid on the ground** — Power steering fluid is thin, reddish-or-clear, and smells like machine oil.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SHOP

Expect the shop to identify the leak or noise source before quoting — a hose or o-ring is the cheap end, a pump the middle, a steering rack the expensive one. A whine with low fluid usually means a leak that starved the pump. A flush protects a new pump; on electric steering, the answer is a code read, not fluid.

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 power steering problem ended. Your vehicle, its history and the shop's testing decide yours. FixDozer does not perform repairs and receives nothing from shops.