

Enginetech Inc
Tech Assistance 800-410-3664 ext. 340 or 237

TECHNICAL BULLETIN	
	August 2002
	TB 2001
Mfg:	FORD
Model:	F-SERIES
Liter:	4.2L
V I N:	2
Year:	97-08

Revised Front Cover Bolt Torque For
1996-98 Ford 3.8 & 4.2L VIN 4 & 2

The AERA Technical Committee offers the following information concerning a revised bolt torque value for the front cover on 1996-98 Ford 3.8 & 4.2L VIN 4 & 2 engines. AERA members have reported engine coolant leakage at the front timing cover area. Most often a contaminated engine oil supply results as undesirable coolant mixes with the engine oil.

This leakage at the front timing cover gaskets seemed to be a problem on these engines after many engine temperature cycles. This condition showed up in the field after a few years of vehicle service and has resulted in this revised bolt torque to help cure the problem.

Do not tighten the front cover bolts to the torque value listed in existing manuals unless they say 20 FT/LBS (28 Nm) for the stud/bolts and nuts. The socket head cap screws are the only fastener that has a different torque value, which is 16 ft/lbs (22 Nm). Tightening these bolts to a higher torque value could crack the water pump housing.

Note: As always, extreme care must be exercised scraping the old gasket off especially when replacing this gasket in the vehicle. Make sure absolutely none of the old gasket pieces or airborne dust enters into the engine. Do not use any type of rotating air tool, cordless drill (etc.) with a scrubby pad or disc attached. Careful hand scrapping is required when in this application or when the engine you are working on is an assembled unit.

The AERA Technical Committee

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