



How to change engine  
thermostat on  
**MERCEDES-BENZ S-  
Class Saloon (W126)** –  
replacement guide

## SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

### **Important!**

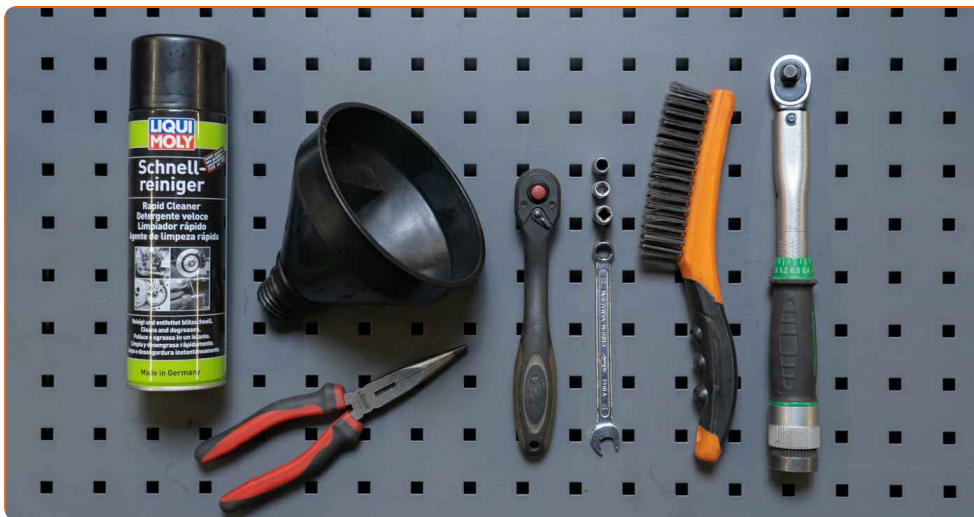
This replacement procedure can be used for:

MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126) 260 SE (126.020), MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126) 280 S 2.8 (126.021), MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126) 280 SE, SEL (126.022, 126.023), MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126) 300 SE, SEL (126.024, 126.025)

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: MERCEDES-BENZ 190 (W201) 2.0 (201.023)

REPLACEMENT: ENGINE THERMOSTAT – MERCEDES-  
 BENZ S-CLASS SALOON (W126). TOOLS YOU MIGHT  
 NEED:



- Wire brush
- All-purpose cleaning spray
- Torque wrench
- Combination spanner #10
- Drive socket # 7
- Drive socket # 8
- Drive socket # 10
- Ratchet wrench
- Long nose pliers
- Funnel
- Fluid container
- Fender cover

**Buy tools**

Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126).  
AUTODOC recommends:

- Check the condition of the coolant every time you replace the thermostat. Change the coolant if necessary.
- Please note: all work on the car – MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126) – should be done with the engine switched off.

## CARRY OUT REPLACEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1

Open the bonnet.

2

Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.

3

Unscrew the coolant reservoir cap.

4

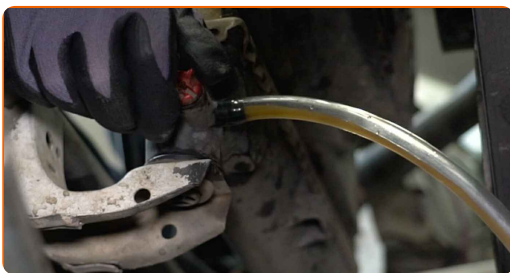
Lift the car using a jack or place it over an inspection pit.

5

Prepare a container for fluids.

6

Open the coolant drain tap.



**7** Drain the coolant from the engine.

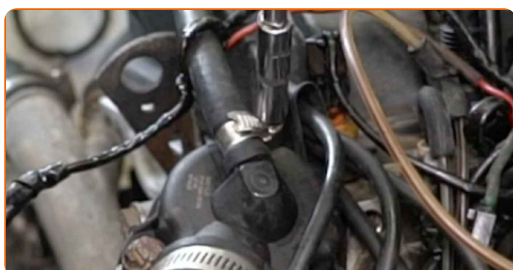


Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126).  
AUTODOC experts recommend:

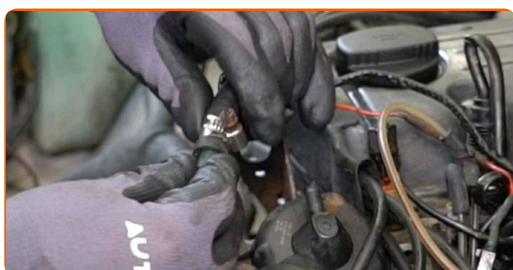
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.
- Wait until the coolant has completely flowed out of the drain hole.

**8** Close the coolant drain tap.

**9** Loosen the clamp of the expansion tank hose. Use a drive socket #7. Use a ratchet wrench.



**10** Detach the expansion tank hose from the thermostat housing.



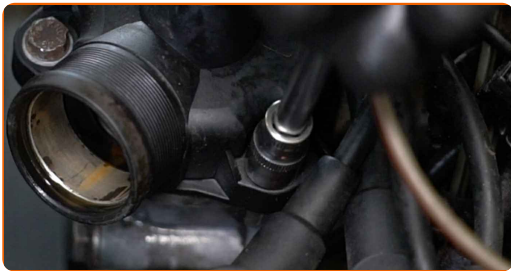
**11**

Detach the coolant hose.



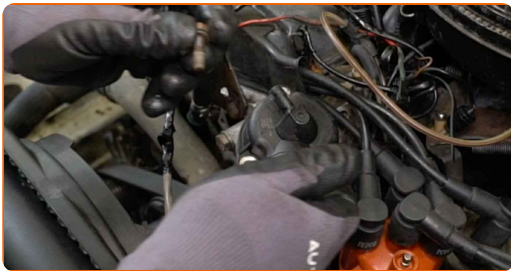
**12**

Unscrew the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a ratchet wrench.



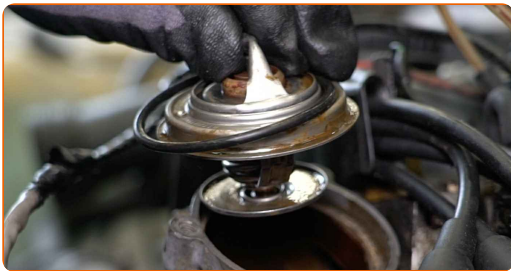
**13**

Remove the fastening bolts.



**14**

Remove the thermostat together with the housing.



Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126).  
Professionals recommend:

- Caution! Coolant may leak out of the coolant lines and thermostat housing.

**15**

Clean the thermostat housing mounting seat. Use all-purpose cleaning spray.

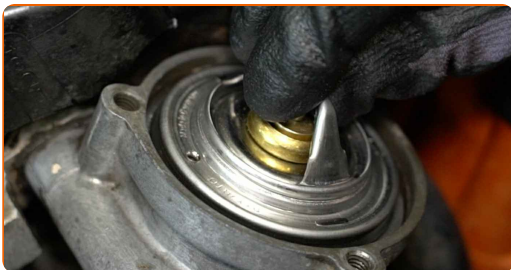


**16**

Clean the thermostat mounting seat. Use a wire brush. Use all-purpose cleaning spray.

**17**

Install a new thermostat.



**18**

Install the thermostat housing.

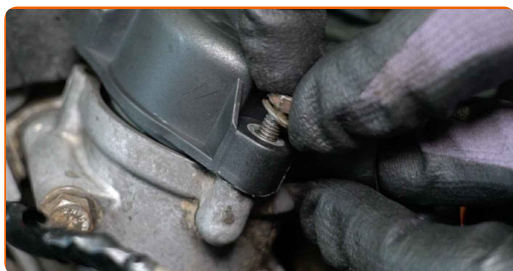


Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126).  
Tip from AUTODOC experts:

- Be sure to use a new O-ring when installing the sensor.



**19** Install the fastening bolts.



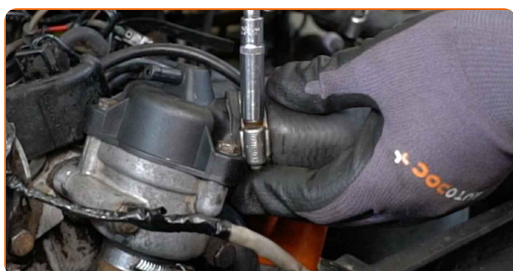
**20** Tighten the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 12 Nm torque.



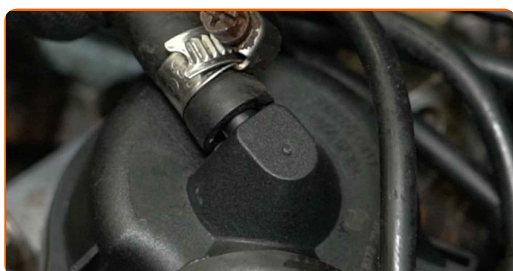
**21** Attach the coolant hose.



**22** Secure the coolant hose clamp. Use a drive socket #8. Use a ratchet wrench.

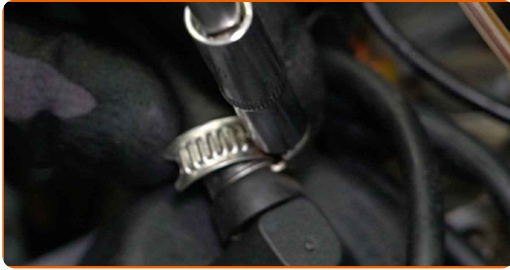


**23** Connect the expansion tank hose to the thermostat housing.





**24** Tighten the clamp of the expansion tank hose. Use a drive socket #7. Use a ratchet wrench.



**25** Remove the coolant reservoir cap.

**26** Insert the funnel.



**27** Pour coolant in the coolant reservoir.



Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ S-Class Saloon (W126).

Tip:

- Only use the coolant recommended by the manufacturer.
- The coolant level should be at the MAX mark.
- Wait until the air goes out of the system.

**28** Install the coolant reservoir cap.



**29** Screw on the coolant reservoir cap.



**30** Run the engine for a few minutes.

**AUTODOC recommends:**

- This should be done in order to remove residual air from the cooling system and to check if the components are operating correctly.

**31** Shut off the engine.

**32** Remove the fender protection cover.

**33** Close the hood.

**WELL DONE!** 

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