



How to change engine  
thermostat on  
**MERCEDES-BENZ W123**  
**Estate (S123)** –  
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 W123 Estate (S123) 200 2.0, MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123) 230 TE 2.3 (123.283), MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123) 230 2.3 (123.083), MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123) 250 T 2.5 (123.086), MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123) 250 2.5 (123.086), MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123) 280 TE 2.8 (123.093)

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 W123 ESTATE (S123). 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

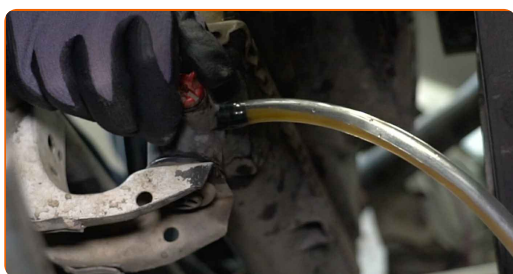
**Buy tools**

Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123).  
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 W123 Estate (S123) – 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.

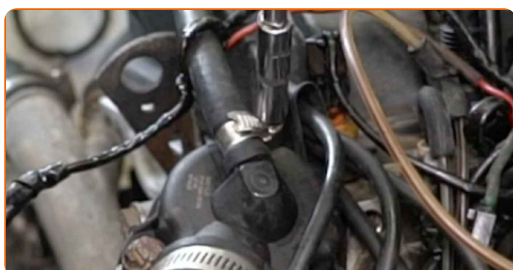


Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123).  
AUTODOC experts recommend:

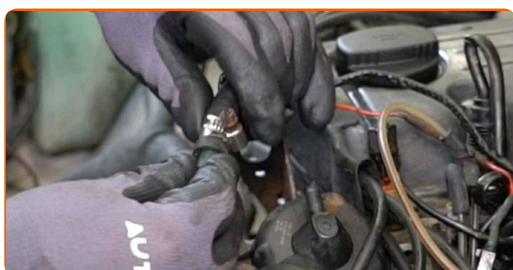
- All work should be done with the engine stopped.
- Wait until the coolant has completely flowed out of the drain hole.

**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.



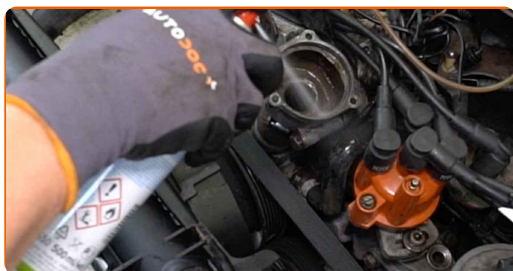
**14** Remove the thermostat together with the housing.



Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123).  
Professionals recommend:

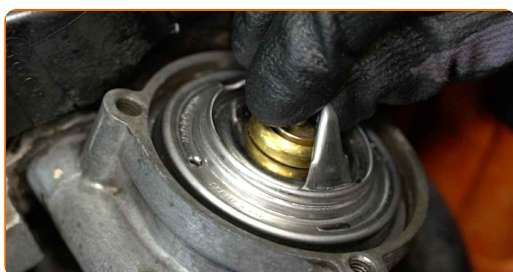
- Caution! Coolant may leak out of the coolant lines and thermostat housing.

**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.



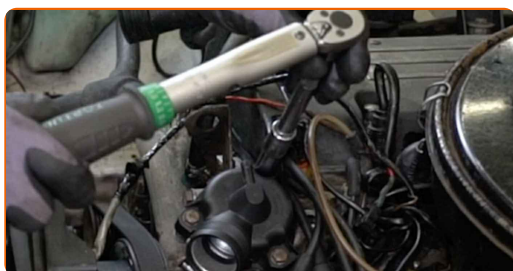
Replacement: engine thermostat – MERCEDES-BENZ W123 Estate (S123). Tip from AUTODOC experts:

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

**19** Install the fastening bolts.



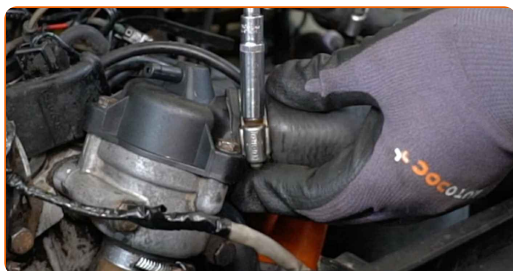
**20** Tighten the thermostat housing fasteners. Use a drive socket #10. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 12 Nm torque.



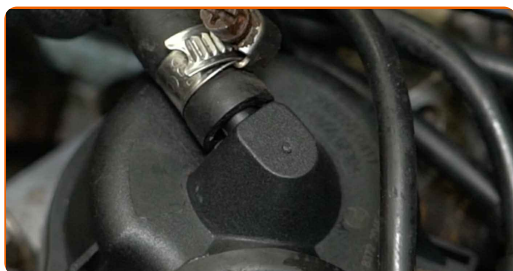
**21** Attach the coolant hose.



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

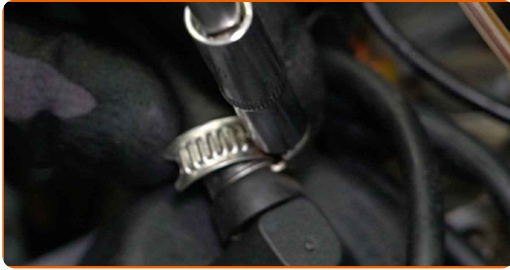


**23** Connect the expansion tank hose to the thermostat housing.





**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 W123 Estate (S123). 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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