2013-2015 Chevrolet Malibu - Thermostat Replacement

2013-2015 Chevrolet Malibu | Moderate | 2-3 hours | $130 DIY

TOOLS

10mm Socket Flathead Screwdriver Jack Stands Drain Pan Torque Wrench

PARTS

Thermostat Housing Assembly 12651603 $97.10
Thermostat Gasket 12630780 $12.64
Coolant 12346290 $20.00

STEPS

1. **Prepare (housing assembly, 203F!) - The 2013-2015 Chevrolet Malibu 2.5L (LCV) thermostat** replacement: the stat is INTEGRATED into a plastic housing assembly bolted at the water pump - serviced as a unit. OE: GM 12650241; aftermarket Dorman 902-2125. Opening temp 203F....
2. **Drain, Access the Housing - Drain the coolant. Note: if you have a cold gauge + fans** always on, the ECT sensor (in the housing) may be the culprit - but the thermostat assembly includes it. The 203F opening temp is the 2.5L's spec.
3. **Inspect the old housing and clean the mating surface - Inspect the old housing for cracks** (plastic fails with heat cycling). OE is GM 12650241. Clean the mating surface on the water pump. The 203F opening (not 195F) is the verified 2.5L spec.
4. **Install New Housing Assembly - Install the new housing assembly (12650241 or Dorman** 902-2125). Torque the housing bolts to spec (service data - the 89 in-lb figure is for the 1.5T, not confirmed for the 2.5L; use service data). The plastic housing needs a light torque...
5. **Refill Dex-Cool, Bleed - Refill with Dex-Cool (GM factory spec). The 2.5L LCV uses** Dex-Cool - not green, not Asian. Fill the surge tank/reservoir. Bleed: run to operating temp with heat on max, let the 203F stat open (upper hose gets hot), cool fully, recheck....
6. **Verify, Check Gauge, Recheck - Start the engine - check for leaks at the housing. Confirm** the upper hose gets hot (203F opening). The INTEGRATED 203F housing (not a separate stat), the in-housing ECT sensor, Dex-Cool, and the water-pump-mounted location are the 20...

TORQUE

Thermostat housing bolts 12 Nm 9 ft-lbs

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