

# Installing a Ford transmission pan and filter on an E70 X5 35d

By boredincl

I was looking for parts to replace the transmission fluid and filter on my 09 X5 35d and came across an interesting tidbit of info.

I knew ZF makes the 6HP26 trans in the X5 and many other BMWs, Land Rovers, Jags and other manufactures but also licensed the rights to other auto makes so they can build their own.

Ford has the 6R80 trans they use in the late model Ford trucks, from pickups, including the Raptor to some F450s with the Power Stroke diesels. I am sure they tweak the trans with different clutch packs, pump pressures ect. to support the demands of the truck it is in, but the main case size and more specifically the trans pan is the same size as the ZF in the X5.

This means there are now more options beside the plastic case with the filter built in that requires the entire pan be replaced at a cost of \$80 to \$180 for a true ZF pan depending on where you purchase it.

I found a write-up on a forum at [defendersource.com](http://www.defendersource.com) that discusses replacing the ZF pan with a Pan from a Ford 6R80.

<http://www.defendersource.com/forum/f14/lr3-trans-service-59037.html>

There are also companies that sell a deep sump pan that holds more fluid and is made from cast aluminum with cooling fins, but I decided I don't need these features.

After reading the post I decided to install a factory Ford transmission pan for a 6R80, new filter and 7 liters of ZF Life Guard 6 fluid.

My transmission was not giving me any issues but since it had 109K miles on it I wanted to change the fluid and filter now and then in 50-60K. While I am doing it I want to go with a different style pan so I only need to replace the filter and fluid for the next changes. The 6R80 pan also allows me to add a drain plug and it holds an additional liter of fluid.

I realize there are many schools of thought on if the fluid should be changed or flushed and if the filter should be replaced or left alone, and that's fine, but I am a firm believer that any mechanical device that uses a fluid to lubricate, clean and cool itself should have the fluid changed at a regular interval so this is a write up of what I did and hopefully it might shed some light on the subject for those of you who are looking for more info.

There is a lot of info on the net about the proper way to change and fill the fluid on a ZF 6HP26 trans including proper safety tips and common tools to use so I will not go

into these details other than to say above all else be very careful and use common sense!

Parts list:

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Transmission pan	fordparts.com	9L3Z-7A194-A	\$45.53
Wix Filter W/gasket	rockauto.com	Wix 58099	\$36.79
7 Liters ZF Life Guard fluid	thectsc.com	S671-090-255-01	\$136.71
Trans drain plug	Summitracing.com	SPE-5449	\$8.97
21x Trans pan bolts	Ace Hardware	6Mx1.0	\$16.80



1. This is the transmission with the plastic air shield in place under the transmission. The X5 is on jack stands and level.

