

A word about timing belts amp chains (Baton Rouge)



Location

Louisiana

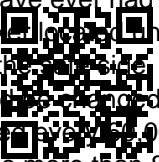
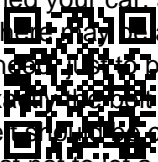
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Below is a message that I have copied from Yahoo. It explains about the timing belt on your vehicle and what can happen if its replacement is ignored. I could not have said the below statement any better. Its replacement alone can save you thousands of dollars. We all do the best we can to protect our vehicles and we all make sure to keep them maintained against all possible threats and dangers. However, it should not be surprising to learn that one of the greatest dangers to high mileage cars is also one of the least well known. While we expect and try to prevent cases of engine or transmission failure, the death of many older or high mileage cars is nothing other than a failure of the timing belt. However, in order to understand what makes the timing belt so important and how we can prevent it from failing; we first need to learn a little bit about what it does and what we should expect from specific car models when it comes to life expectancy of the belt. The timing belt serves a very important part when it comes to making your engine run. Namely, the timing belt is the belt that controls the camshafts in your engine and keeps the entire operation running smoothly. Note that timing belts are present in engines with overhead cams, and are essential to keep these cams turning at the right time in order to keep the engine running.

Remember that a camshaft is the shaft that opens and closes the intake and exhaust valves in your engine, both letting air in to create combustion, and venting the exhaust that comes from those explosions. A timing belt must be properly calibrated in order to move in time with the motion of the pistons. When it comes to engines, the two most important terms to remember when talking about timing belts are "interference" engines and "non-interference" engines. Interference engines have a very, very small amount of space between the valves and pistons, while non-interference engines tend to have a lot more room. The different types of engines make a major difference when figuring out how bad a timing belt failure can be for your engine. In an interference engine, with little space between the valves and pistons, a slip or break in the belt can send a piston flying into an open valve. When this happens, it is similar to the engine self-destructing, as it will soon become nothing more than an unusable mess of metal. This is not to say, however, that a timing belt failure in a non-interference engine will not be damaging, as it can still cause a great deal of damage to many engine components. Generally speaking, however, a timing belt failure in a non-interference engine will not cripple the motor. Regardless of what type of motor is present in your car, a failure in the timing belt will cause the engine to suddenly stop. This means that your car will suddenly stop running and you will not be able to get it started again. In all cases, this means calling a tow truck to come pick up your now non-running vehicle. If all of this sounds like a nightmare, that's because it can really turn out to be one. Luckily though, timing belt failure is somewhat easy to prevent, and although it may not be the cheapest or easiest operation in the world, it is definitely a better option than purchasing either a new car or a new engine. Of course, checking to see when your timing belt was last changed is not always the easiest

task either. If you have owned your car, and have ever had it replaced in the past, you should have the mileage written down as to when it was changed. If, though, you purchased a car used, there may be a sticker on the underside of the hood of your car, listing the mileage at which the timing belt was last changed. If you cannot find this sticker, then it is better to have the belt changed just to be on the safe side. If you are the owner's manual for your vehicle, it should detail when the belt should be changed. If you have trouble figuring out when exactly it should be changed; you can always consult either a good mechanic or a good dealer for the exact number. A good general rule of thumb is that timing belts should be changed every 60,000 to 70,000 miles, although some belts are designed to last up to 100,000 miles before requiring a change.

Regardless though, it is best not to let a belt go more than 80,000 miles or so, even if the recommended change point is a lot higher. Changing your belt early is definitely a lot safer for your engine, and a little money out of pocket can save you a lot of money and/or a replacement car in the long run. Remember, even though you may get your oil changed every 3,000 miles, and do all of your scheduled repair services, nothing can save you from a timing belt failure. Make sure to get your timing belt replaced regularly and by a certified mechanic. It can mean the difference between a good running car and a useless piece of metal. With all that said, over the past year I have replaced or rebuilt more engines than replacing the timing belt or chain. You can read my listing in Craigslist (Baton Rouge) under Services Offered and use key search words or listing title "Automotive repair" and "Engines rebuilt or replaced" to view my ads. So contact any mechanic or myself to get it replaced before it goes out, or it will save you money, time, frustration, and a headache. If you have a timing chain in your vehicle and the timing chain guide breaks, the tensioner may repetition



itself and you may very well hear what is called timing chain slap (a loose timing chain). It is then extremely important to get it repaired ASAP. For further driving it can ruin the whole engine. Thanks for reading this, Scott Just had to add this. I have replaced many 4.6L and 5.4L Ford motors due to failed timing guides and only replaced the timing sets on a few when there was timing chain slap which was caught before engine failure. Ford does not have a scheduled mileage for replacement of the timing set in the 4.0L, 4.6L, or 5.4L motors. My recommendation is to change it between 150K & 175K miles. Most of my engine replacements had severe engine damage around 200K miles when the guides failed. Then the motor should last another 175K miles after replacing the timing set. I've said that because I have been swamped with 4.6L and 5.4L engine replacements or timing set replacements recently. Also I do recommend that all timing chain driven engines have the timing chain system replaced as stated above. If you have had proper oil changes then I would go as high as 200K - 225K miles before.