



Engine Tune-Up: When Should Spark Plugs Be Replaced?

Your General Motors vehicle is equipped with Iridium- or Platinum-tipped spark plugs that are designed to operate under normal vehicle operating conditions for up to 100,000 miles (160,000 kilometers) without periodic maintenance.

When no engine performance concerns are present, Iridium- and Platinum-tipped spark plugs should not be removed for periodic inspection and cleaning of threads. Doing so may compromise the spark plugs' ability to withstand their corrosive environment. The threaded area, although not sealed, serves as a protective environment against most harmful elements.

Removing and cleaning spark plugs will introduce metallic debris and brush scrapings into the thread area, which may further the corrosion process.

Chromate-coated spark plugs should not be wire brushed or handled in any way once they are put in service. Chromium topcoats form a protective oxide on spark plugs that is not effective if scratched. Both coated and uncoated spark plugs will have the best chance of surviving a corrosive environment if they are left in position. Attempts to maintain spark plugs by removing them and cleaning the threads can actually create the corrosive condition that the procedure was intended to prevent.

Please encourage your servicing technician to follow a specific symptom diagnostic approach, not a wide encompassing "tune-up" approach. Routine replacement (less than 100,000 miles) of spark plug sets are considered an unnecessary expense.