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Honda gcv160 spark plug lowes

Photo Courtesy: joebelanger/iStock Spark plugs screw into the cylinder of your engine and connect to the ignition system. Electricity from the ignition system flows through the plug and creates a spark. This ignites with the fuel-and-air mixture in the cylinder to create an explosion and power the engine. Spark plugs are important for starting the car, but they must also continue to fire at set intervals to keep the engine going. When spark plugs wear out, they don't fire at the proper times and don't work as they should. Fortunately, spark plugs are durable and last for thousands of miles before they need maintenance. If you're having trouble determining if it's time to replace your spark plugs, use these guidelines to help. Manufacturer Guidelines How long spark plugs last depend on the vehicle and the quality of the spark plugs. Some wear out after 60,000 miles and others keep going for 120,000 miles. As with other car maintenance tasks, it's best to refer to the owner's manual or manufacturer guidelines for the most accurate information. Even if you don't notice any problems, you should replace the spark plugs at these designated intervals to ensure your vehicle continues running optimally. Photo Courtesy: Drbouz/iStock Check Engine Light Though not always an accurate predictor of spark plug performance, the check engine light is a good place to start. If your spark plugs aren't working as they should, they can trigger the sensor that causes the light to come on. Many auto stores and garages offer free check engine light diagnostics, so it's worth a quick trip to find out what the problem is as soon as possible. Photo Courtesy: Sigmund/Unsplash Problems Cranking the Car One of the first signs that it's time to replace spark plugs is that you have trouble starting the car. The purpose of the spark plug is to create the spark that ignites the fuel in the engine. When the spark plugs wear out, they do not perform this job efficiently and cause problems cranking the engine. Photo Courtesy: chataczeekan/iStock Poor Fuel Economy When your spark plugs are worn out, you'll notice a considerable drop in fuel efficiency. Misfiring spark plugs do not use up all of the fuel in the cylinder and it's wasted. It can reduce your fuel economy by as much as 30 percent, according to Firestone. Photo Courtesy: Rock Staar/Unsplash Engine Idles Roughly A finely tuned engine purrs quietly. Rattling, sputtering and knocking sounds often mean that your spark plugs are misfiring. Additionally, you may feel jerking or bumping when your car idles at a stop light. Photo Courtesy: Rock McLean/Unsplash Trouble Accelerating To go along with your fuel not being used efficiently, you'll also notice that your car has less power. It might hesitate when you take off from a stop or be slow to accelerate. If your car is sluggish and not driving like it usually does, it might be time for spark plug replacement. Photo Courtesy: ppeppercreative/iStock If you take your car in for routine maintenance and tune-ups, auto mechanics will check the correct spark plug gap in addition to other components, such as oil, oil filter, air filter and more. Your mechanic can tell if your spark plugs are wearing out and replace them before you start experiencing any serious symptoms. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET A spark plug provides a flash of electricity through your car's ignition system to power it up. When they go bad, your car won't start. Even if they're faulty, your engine loses power, and you may experience the following symptoms when you need to replace them: Replaced by Spark Plug Upkeep Your car and filters, spark plugs determine how well it runs. Replacing them can save you money and prevent costly repairs. You can drive thousands of miles without any issues. Some car makers recommend doing it every 30,000 miles or up to three years. Like engines, the type of vehicle you drive and the type of spark plugs it has can come into play. If your car is difficult to start, makes a knocking noise, has a worsening fuel economy or simply doesn't perform as well, it may be sign it's time for a change. You'll need to know your car's make and model, year, number of cylinders, type of transmission, engine displacement, type of fuel system, spark plug gap and the part number for the spark plugs you already have when replacing them. You also need to know that there are four types of spark plugs. Always use the type your vehicle manual suggests unless you've talked to a professional mechanic about making an upgrade or downgrade. Copper/Copper spark plugs are typically found in cars made before the 1980s, and they're the ones you need to replace the most frequently. They're inexpensive and considered the lowest grade of spark plug. The core is made from solid copper, and the electrode is made from nickel alloy. With the exception of a few high-performance engines, most modern vehicles won't use copper spark plugs, though if you find that your vehicle does, do not upgrade without talking to a professional about the potential repercussions. Platinum If you have a newer car with an electric distributor-based ignition system, it probably has platinum spark plugs. These can last for up to 100,000 miles usually because they can handle hotter temperatures, and they are not usually subject to debris buildup that often makes spark plugs go bad. Never go from platinum to copper when getting new spark plugs, though it is okay to go from platinum to double platinum or iridium. Double Platinum And if your owner's manual says you need double platinum spark plugs, never downgrade to copper or regular platinum, even though copper and platinum are less expensive. Double platinum spark plugs are known for their ability to handle reverse spark when necessary which can cause the lower grades to wear down quicker. Iridium/Iridium spark plugs are the top of the line, but they aren't suitable for every vehicle. The metal is harder than copper or platinum, and many vehicles currently on the market use them. While you can't upgrade if your car is one of them, it's usually worth it to pay the extra price for iridium as they can withstand practically any conditions. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET CCO/cindydangerjones/Pixabay A single car has around 30,000 parts. Most drivers don't know the name of all of them; just the major ones yet motorists generally know the name of one of the car's smallest parts - the spark plug. That's because it's an important part of the car. Without it, your car wouldn't start as it delivers an electric current from the ignition system to the combustion chamber to ignite the air/fuel mixture in the engine. Do you know how often they need to be replaced or which spark plugs to use for your vehicle? Those questions along with a few others will be answered here. When to Change Spark Plugs You'll need to leave yourself around an hour to change the spark plugs on a typical four-cylinder engine. If you have the time and the confidence to change them yourself, your car will return better gas mileage and be at its peak performance. Over time spark plugs burn out but they last much longer than other parts of the car as most manufacturers recommend they're changed every 60,000 to 70,000 miles. You should get them checked every 30,000 miles though. Engine Issues The 2017 CarMD Vehicle Health Index shows that just over six percent of all engine-light related faults were caused by spark plug and ignition coil issues. Although spark plugs are small, when they fail they cause big issues. The engine may fail to start. If you get the car started, the engine might struggle to idle or it could stall from time to time for no obvious reason. Engine misfires and a lack of power under acceleration are other signs that the spark plugs need replacing. Thankfully it's not an expensive job if you choose to have it done by an expert. Changing Spark Plugs There are lots of little things that need to happen during the process of changing the spark plugs but let's not go into the details here. The best way of working out how to change the spark plugs is to take advice from someone who's done it before, whether that's through a mechanic you know or one that's uploaded a video online is up to you. The process basically involves disconnecting the spark plugs wires, removing the old plugs and replacing them with the new ones. Once you've reconnected the wires, you're back on the road. Spark Plug Gapping The gap between the side and center electrodes of each spark plug needs to be exactly the same for it to operate as it's designed to. As the plug ages and wears away, the gap widens. The extreme temperatures it works under, debris and wear and tear cause the gap to widen which makes combustion erratic and inefficient. You can adjust the gap between the electrodes in a process called gapping. You can find gap charts online or buy a spark plug gap tool if you're going to take care of this issue yourself. Spark Plug Types There's a wide variety of different spark plugs on the market. The plug's performance usually improves if you upgrade to something other than the basic copper plug. A platinum spark plug works in the same way as a copper one but it can last as much as 100,000 miles. Newer vehicles with electronic distributor-based ignition systems tend to have these installed. You also have to choice of installing Iridium coated plugs. Iridium is costly so expect to pay more for this type of plug but you will also get more for your money because the plug's fine wire center electrode helps increase firing efficiency. Good to Know Did you realize that cleaning your spark plugs can bring them back to their top performance? It's a time-consuming process and there's generally no need to do it though as new plugs are so cheap, you may as well replace them. When your plugs need changing, replace them for the manufacturer's recommended spark plugs. If you have to change the plugs, upgrading them to a platinum or iridium plug normally works fine but never downgrade them to copper. MORE FROM LIFE123.COM

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