

Above and Beyond Auto Repair

ABOUT TIMING BELTS

Timing Belts are becoming very common on most modern vehicles. They are lightweight and allow for smaller engine designs. The draw back of a timing belt is that it needs to be replaced at periodic intervals, or it will break and leave the engine inoperative.

If your timing belt has exceeded the manufactures recommended replacement schedule, IT CAN FAIL AT ANY TIME. There is no prior warning signs of emanate failure and in most cases you and your vehicle will be stranded and inconvenienced.

Extreme weather conditions add to the stress factors of the timing belt and most often they will fail in extreme hot or cold, though they can and do break at all times of the year after exceeding their replacement interval.

Here a few facts about timing belts:

1) They are the component that drives the engine camshaft(s). In most engines they also drive the water pump. When replacing a timing belt, it is often recommended that the water pump be replaced at the same time - Even If - the water pump does not have a problem at this time. The labor amount involved to change a water pump at a later date is virtually the same as replacing the belt in the first place.

2) In some engines, timing belt failure can cause internal engine damage to the valve train. If this happens, a relatively simple preventive maintenance procedure increases into a major engine repair. Your service specialist will inform you if this applies to your engine type.

3) Most Manufacturers Timing Belt Replacement Schedules Are:

- Pre 2000 Vehicles – Replacement recommended every 60,000 miles.
- Post 2000 Vehicles – Replacement recommended every 90,000 miles.

The difference between Pre and Post 2000 vehicles is manufacturing differences in the ‘surface area’ of the belt.

4) Most timing belt replacement procedures can be accomplished in less than one day, unless it has caused internal engine damage.