

insider info.

Subaru Oil Change Service Information

When performing an oil change service on Subaru vehicles, don't confuse the drain plugs and filters located under the vehicle. Subaru models produced over the past several years feature an under-engine cover. This cover greatly reduces the accumulation of dirt and grime on the engine and also reduces the overall coefficient of drag of the vehicle. However, it does limit the access to the engine oil drain plug and engine oil filter.

Items to remember when performing services on Subaru vehicles:

- The engine oil filter is located at the front of the engine.
- The engine oil pan and 17 mm oil drain plug are painted black and are located directly under the engine — above the under-engine cover.
- The engine oil dipstick is located under the hood, on the front driver's corner of the engine.
- The transmission front differential is bright aluminum with a gold-colored 21 mm drain plug. This housing is bolted directly behind the engine and is filled with GL-5 gear oil.
- The differential dipstick is located under the hood near the firewall, on the passenger side of the differential housing.
- The transmission pan is black. Its 17 mm drain plug is located on the driver's side of the pan. The drain plug is normally silver in color, but black drain plugs have also been installed on occasion. The transmission is filled with Dextron II ATF.
- 1999 and later Subaru vehicles equipped with automatic transmissions have a screw-on filter on the driver's side of the transmission. Do not confuse this with the engine oil filter. The transmission filter does not require service under normal conditions.
- The automatic transmission fluid dipstick is under the hood, on the driver's side of the car near the firewall.
- All three dipsticks have yellow handles for easy identification.
- Always confirm proper lubricant levels in each unit after performing any service.