

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) DECODING

Originally, Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) were designated to identify a vehicle, but there was no standardization. Beginning in 1981, vehicles were assigned an international VIN code consisting of 17 characters (which cannot include the letter I, O or Q) unique to each vehicle.

The VIN serves a variety of purposes. As well as providing identification in licensing and insuring the vehicle, the history of the vehicle can be tracked. VIN codes provide complete vehicle information including:

- is the vehicle defective (lemon car)
- has the vehicle been totaled or had major accident damage
- has the vehicle had flood damage
- has the vehicle had odometer fraud
- has the vehicle been stolen

To help decode the VIN, the following information has been provided:

- **1st - 3rd Characters**
Identify the manufacturer (country), make and type of vehicle.
- **4th - 8th Characters**
Identify the different aspects of the vehicle.

For each type of vehicle (passenger cars, multi-passenger vehicles (MPVs), trucks, buses, trailers, motorcycles, incomplete vehicles other than trailers) different information is required.

For cars, MPVs and light-duty trucks:

- 4th - 5th positions** are alphabetic
- 6th - 7th positions** are numeric
- 8th position** can be either alphabetic or numeric

■ **9th Character (or Check Digit)**

Is determined by a complicated formula.

Each character is assigned a numerical value and then multiplied by the value assigned to its position. These values are added and then divided by 11. The remainder is the Check Digit. This character can be numeric or the letter X.

■ **10th Character**

Identifies the vehicle model year.

■ **11th Character**

Identifies the plant of manufacture.

■ **12th - 17th Characters**

Consists of a sequential production number for manufacturers producing more than 500 vehicles per year.

VIN NUMBER ORIGIN AND YEAR

1ST CHARACTER - COUNTRY OF ORIGIN				10TH CHARACTER - YEAR			
1 U.S.A.	L China or	Y Sweden or	A 1980	K 1989	W 1998	7 2007	
2 Canada	Taiwan	Finland	B 1981	L 1990	X 1999	8 2008	
3 Mexico	M Thailand	Z Italy	C 1982	M 1991	Y 2000	9 2009	
4 U.S.A.	S Great Britain		D 1983	N 1992	1 2001	A 2010	
5 U.S.A.	V France or		E 1984	P 1993	2 2002	B 2011	
J Japan	Yugoslavia		F 1985	R 1994	3 2003	C 2012	
K Korea	W Germany		G 1986	S 1995	4 2004	D 2013	
			H 1987	T 1996	5 2005	E 2014	
			J 1988	V 1997	6 2006		

VIN plates are read through the windshield on the driver's side of most vehicles. A manufacturer may use a variation of the same size engine in one model. To insure that you are using the correct filters for the application, it is necessary to identify the proper engine code. The following examples illustrate the location of the engine code in most manufacturer's VIN codes.

DOMESTIC VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)

AM GENERAL/HUMMER

1995-2010

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

137**X**E82H*TE013212

AMC/EAGLE (EXCEPT JEEP)

1972-1980

ENGINE CODE
(Seventh Character)

A3M798**Z**700001

1981-1988

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

2CC**B**N387*GB529063

1989-98

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

2E3BB66**U***LH038364

* See VIN Decoding Information on 9th Character (Check Digit).

DOMESTIC VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)

CHEVROLET/GMC TRUCK

1970-1980

ENGINE CODE
(Third Character)

CC**D**13AF100007

1981-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

1GTDC14**N***GF100001

CHRYSLER, FORD, GMC

1972-1980

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Character)

1H35**L**7R100001

1981-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

1G3AL69**N***CM100001

FORD TRUCK

1970-1980

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

F25**F**LGA0000

1981-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

1G3AL69**N***CM100001

JEEP

1971-1974

(up to SN #100000)

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

J4A154C**N**00001

1975-1980

(from SN #100000)

ENGINE CODE
(Seventh Character)

J5A15E**N**100011

1981-1988

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

1J**T**HE811*HT309520

1989-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

1J4ET37**L***LT438789

IMPORTED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)

ASTON MARTIN

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

SCFFDCC**D**XAGE11806

AUDI

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Character)

TRUS**1**AFK8A1006246

BENTLEY (EXCEPT ARNAGE & AZURE)

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Character)

SCBB**R**9ZA5AC063211

BENTLEY (ARNAGE & AZURE)

ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)

SCDBD**C**4BL8ACX13550

DAIHATSU

1988-92

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

JD1FG12**0***J4200020

FERRARI

2008-09

ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)

ZFF65**L**JA70169519

2010-on

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

ZFF**E**W58A490000001

HYUNDAI

1986-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

KM**H**BF31**S***MU000001

INFINITI

1990-on

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

JNK**N**G01C*M1100001

* See VIN Decoding Information on 9th Character (Check Digit).

IMPORTED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) (Cont'd.)

ISUZU (EXCEPT OASIS)

1981-2008

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

JABRT69**7***FU015643

JAGUAR

1979-1980

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Character)

JAVLN**4**9C000001

1981-99

ENGINE CODE
(Seventh Character)

SAJAV1**3**NGC000001

2000-04, 2008-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

SAJDA24**C**3YLF11571

KIA

1994-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

KNARA12**2***T1234560

LAND ROVER (EXCEPT LR2)

1987-on

ENGINE CODE
(Seventh Character)

SALHV1**2**4MA12346

LAND ROVER (LR2)

2008-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

SALHV12**4**MA123456

MAZDA TRUCKS

1994-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

4F2CY4K**3**4AKM00010

MERKUR

1985-90

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

WF1BT81**V***H1000010

MG

1970-79

ENGINE CODE
(Second Character)

G**N**N5UH000001G

1980

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Character)

GVAD**J**1AG000001

MITSUBISHI

1983-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

JA4MT41**P***WP123456

NISSAN (EXCEPT QUEST)

1995-on

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth Character)

JN1**P**S245*GW000001

PEUGEOT

1981-91

ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)

VF3BA**5**16*FS368001

PORSCHE

2006-on

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Character)

WP0A**C**2A7XAL090244

SAAB

1981-83

ENGINE CODE
(Seventh Character)

YS3BT5**5**S*D3000001

1984-on

ENGINE CODE
(Eighth Character)

YS3CT55**N***F3000001

SUBARU

1975-79, 1980 (Brat)

ENGINE CODE
(Third Character)

A**2**6-000001

1980 (Except Brat)

ENGINE CODE
(Seventh Character)

JF1AF4**2**1FAG000001

1981-on

ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)

4S4WX**9**AD4A4400001

* See VIN Decoding Information on 9th Character (Check Digit).

IMPORTED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) (Cont'd.)

SUZUKI

1986-on

ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)

JS2RF**9**A87B6110001

VOLKSWAGEN

2006-on

ENGINE CODE
(Fifth Characters)

4S4W**X**9AD4400001

VOLVO

1981-2009

ENGINE CODE
(Sixth and Seventh Characters)

YV1MS**38**2492445470

2010-on

ENGINE CODE
(Fourth and Fifth Characters)

YV1**67**2MCXAJ092472