# 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 (county), 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 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 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 | K- Korea | W- Germany | A- 1980 | H- 1987 | R- 1994 | 1- 2001 |
| 2- Canada | L- Taiwan | Y- Sweden or | B- 1981 | J- 1988 | S- 1995 | 2- 2002 |
| 3- Mexico | M- Thailand | Finland | C- 1982 | K- 1989 | T- 1996 | 3- 2003 |
| 4- U.S.A | S- Great Britain | Z- Italy | D- 1983 | L- 1990 | V- 1997 | 4- 2004 |
| 5- Brazil | V- France or | | E- 1984 | M- 1991 | W- 1998 | 5- 2005 |
| J- Japan | Yugoslavia | | F- 1985 | N- 1992 | X- 1999 | |
| | | | G- 1986 | P- 1993 | Y- 2000 | |

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)

## AMC/EAGLE (EXCEPT JEEP)

| 1972–1980 | 1981–1988 |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Seventh Character) | (Fourth Character) |
| A3M798$_Z$700001 | 2CC$_B$N387*GB529063 |

| 1989-on |
|---|
| ENGINE CODE |
| (Eighth Character) |
| 2E3BB66$_U$*LH038364 |

## CHEVROLET/GMC TRUCK

| 1970–1980 | 1981-on |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Third Character) | (Eighth Character) |
| CC$_D$13AF100007 | 1GTDC14$_N$*GF100001 |

## CHRYSLER,FORD,GMC

| 1972–1980 | 1981-on |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Fifth Character) | (Eighth Character) |
| 1H35$_L$7R100001 | 1G3AL69$_N$*CM100001 |

# DOMESTIC VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) (Cont'd)

## FORD TRUCK

| 1970–1980 | 1981–on |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Fourth Character) | (Eighth Character) |
| F25$F$LGA0000 | 1G3AL69$N$*CM100001 |

## HUMMER

### 1995–on
ENGINE CODE

(Fourth Character)

137$X$E82H*TE013212

## JEEP

| 1971–1974 | 1975–1980 |
|---|---|
| (up to SN# 10000) | (from SN# 10000) |
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Eighth Character) | (Seventh Character) |
| J4A154C$N$00001 | J5A15E$N$100011 |

| 1981–1988 | 1989–on |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Fourth Character) | (Eighth Character) |
| 1JT$H$E811*HT309520 | 1J4ET37$L$*LT438789 |

# IMPORTED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)

## DAIHATSU

### 1988–1992
ENGINE CODE

(Eighth Character)

JD1FG120*J4200020

## HYUNDAI

### 1986–on
ENGINE CODE

(Eighth Character)

KMHBF31$S$*MU000001

## INFINITI

### 1990–on
ENGINE CODE

(Fourth Character)

JNK$N$G01C*M1100001

## ISUZU (EXCEPT OASIS)

### 1981–on
ENGINE CODE

(Eighth Character)

JABRT697*FU015643

## JAGUAR

| 1979–1980 | 1981–on |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Fifth Character) | (Seventh Character) |
| JAVL$N$49C000001 | SAJAV13$N$*00000100 |

## KIA

### 1994–on
ENGINE CODE

(Eighth Character)

KNARA122*T1234560

## LAND ROVER

### 1987–on
ENGINE CODE

(Seventh Character)

SALHV12$4$*MA123456

## MERKUR

### 1985–90
ENGINE CODE

(Eighth Character)

WF1BT81$V$*H1000010

## MG

| 1970–79 | 1980 |
|---|---|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Second Character) | (Fifth Character) |
| G$N$N5UH000001G | 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

## PEUGOT

### 1981–91
ENGINE CODE

(Sixth Character)

YF3BA$5$16*FS368001

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

## SAAB

| 1981-83 | 1984-on |
|---------|---------|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Seventh Character) | (Eighth Character) |
| YS3BT55S*D3000001 | YS3CT55N*F3000001 |

## SUZUKI

**1986-on**
ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)
JS3TA01C*K1000010

## SUBARU

| 1975-79,1980 (Brat) | 1980 (Except Brat) |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| ENGINE CODE | ENGINE CODE |
| (Third Character) | (Seventh Character) |
| A26-000001 | JF1AFA421FAG000001 |

**1981-on**
ENGINE CODE
(Sixth Character)
JF1AC43B*GB200001

## VOLVO

**1981-96**
ENGINE CODE
(Sixth and Seventh Characters)
YV1AX845*C3375067