



Your Resource

for Georgia's Vehicle Emissions Inspection & Maintenance (I/M) Program.

Spare the Air and Your Wallet



Ongoing Vehicle Maintenance Can Save You Money and Help Keep Our Air Clean.

Try these tips to help prepare for your next vehicle emissions test:

- If your “Check Engine” light or “Service Engine Soon” light is on, you need to have your vehicle checked by a repair technician as soon as possible. This light notifies motorists if something in the emissions control system fails or begins to deteriorate. Early diagnosis and repair can prevent more costly repairs in the future.
- The most common reasons for emissions test failures includes: a malfunction in the components of the vehicle that regulate the fuel/air ratio, such as the oxygen sensor and the EGR valve, a dirty air filter, misfiring spark plugs, leaks in the vacuum system, or a poor fitting fuel cap. Many of these components can be checked and repaired during routine tune-ups. Follow the manufacturer’s recommended vehicle maintenance and tune-up schedule.
- Get your oil changed regularly.
- Tighten your fuel cap securely after filling up. A loose fuel cap allows water and foreign materials to collect, causing rust and a poor seal. On 1996 and newer model year vehicles, the “Check Engine” light may illuminate as a result of a loose fuel cap. If the “Check Engine” light is illuminated, try tightening the fuel cap until it clicks, then drive the vehicle until the light turns itself off.
- Keep the sealing surfaces of your fuel cap clean and in good condition. When necessary, clean them with water and a damp cloth.
- Keep your tires properly inflated.
- Check belts and hoses for wear.

NOTE: Federal law requires that emissions control systems on 1995 or newer model year vehicles be warranted by the manufacturer for two years or 24,000 miles. Federal law also requires that the OBD computer and catalytic converter on 1995 or newer vehicles be warranted by the manufacturer for eight years or 80,000 miles. Many vehicle manufacturers provide extended warranty coverage beyond what is required by federal law. Consult your vehicle owner’s warranty manual for coverage information.