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The Exhaust System

By Kevin Schappell

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Your car's exhaust system carries away the gases created when the fuel and air are burned in the combustion chamber. These gases are harmful to humans and our environment. A frequent check of your exhaust system is a must to provide for you and your family's safety. Make sure there are no holes in the exhaust system or in the passenger compartment where exhaust fumes could enter. Let's begin by listing the parts of the exhaust system and their functions.

Exhaust manifold: The exhaust manifold attaches to the cylinder head and takes each cylinders exhaust and combines it into one pipe. The manifold can be made of steel, aluminum, stainless steel, or more commonly cast iron.

Oxygen sensor: All modern fuel injected cars utilize an oxygen sensor to measure how much oxygen is present in the exhaust. From this the computer can add or subtract fuel to obtain the correct mixture for maximum fuel economy. The oxygen sensor is mounted in the exhaust manifold or close to it in the exhaust pipe.

Catalytic converter: This muffler like part converts harmful carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons to water vapor and carbon dioxide. Some converters also reduce harmful nitrogen oxides. The converter is mounted between the exhaust manifold and the muffler.

Muffler: The muffler serves to quiet the exhaust down to acceptable levels. Remember that the combustion process is a series of explosions that create allot of noise. Most mufflers use baffles to bounce the exhaust around dissipating the energy and quieting the noise. Some mufflers also use fiberglass packing, which absorbs the sound energy as the gases flow through.

Exhaust pipe: Between all of the above mention parts is the exhaust pipe which carries the gas through it's journey out your tail pipe. Exhaust tubing is usually made of steel but can be stainless steel (which lasts longer due to it's corrosion resistance) or aluminized steel tubing. Aluminized steel has better

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corrosion resistance than plain steel but not better than stainless steel. It is however cheaper than stainless steel.

Common Problems:

Well the worst enemy of your exhaust system is corrosion.... or more commonly known as rust. Rust is caused by moisture reacting with the iron in the steel and forming iron oxide. Moisture, or water vapor is present in the exhaust as a by-product of combustion and the catalytic converter. Moisture can also come from the outside in the form of rain.

Short trips in your car can shorten the life of your exhaust system. When you shut down your engine whatever water vapor is in the pipes condenses and turns back into a liquid. On a short trip the water never has a chance to get hot enough to turn back into water vapor and just stays in the system and rusts away the pipes. If you drive for short distances consider replacing your exhaust system with

stainless steel when the plain steel one rusts through. If you drive more than 15 miles at a time then you should not have to worry about this.

If you live in an area, which uses salt on the roads in the wintertime, make sure to wash the underside of your car with water every few weeks. Salt speeds up the corrosion process and getting it off as soon as possible will help stop the corrosion. Make sure you run the engine after washing to drive off all of the water on the pipes.

Noticing a decrease in your gas mileage? Your oxygen sensor could be going south on you. As time goes on the oxygen sensor begins to wear out and becomes less accurate. This sometimes results in a rich fuel mixture where your engine burns more fuel than is needed. Most of the time your check engine light will come on and alert you to a failing oxygen sensor. I suggest changing the oxygen sensor every 60,000 miles just to be safe. Even though your check engine light might not be on, you could be using more gas than is needed. Pay a few bucks and change the sensor, your wallet will thank you when you have to buy less gas down the road.

The next part in line to go is the muffler. Most of the time mufflers rust through and need to be replaced. There are a lot of options out there for replacement mufflers. Some cheap and some expensive. It holds true... you get what you pay for. If you plan on keeping your car for any period of time, spend the extra cash and get an OEM muffler or a high quality name brand muffler.

On rare occasions the catalytic converter will become clogged and need to be replaced. Symptoms include loss of power, heat coming from the floor of your car, glowing red converter or a sulfur smell. Never let a mechanic tell you that you can do without the catalytic converter. Removing this component is illegal in most states and can lead to a hefty fine to the government if you are not careful.

That's about it for the exhaust system; just remember that rust is the biggest enemy to your exhaust system. Take the above-mentioned steps and your exhaust system will last a long time

Kevin Schappell maintains

where he gives advice on buying, selling,

insurance, and financing. A mechanical engineer and car guy, Kevin has decided to spend his online time helping others learn about automobiles. To learn more about how your car works, Kevin has created

Diesel Exhaust Systems For Performance

By Todd Johnson

If you are looking for a diesel exhaust system to enhance your performance, the choice can be a tough one. Diesel gets more and more popular all the time and because of this there are many viable options on the market for your diesel exhaust. In addition to diesel exhaust, there are also many chips and tuners that will help enhance your performance, which makes the choice of an exhaust even more overwhelming. Luckily, there are a few brands that are well known for delivering the best in diesel exhaust for performance each and every time. If you are looking to improve your Chevy Duramax, Dodge Cummins, or Ford Powerstroke engine you can definitely maximize your diesel performance with the right exhaust.

Magnaflow

Magnaflow is definitely a brand that is well recognized and respected in the diesel exhaust market. Magnaflow has really embraced diesel performance and they have a tried and true formula that matches the right amount of air with the measured amount of fuel for the most power. A Magnaflow diesel exhaust system will help your diesel engine maintain a normal temperature to lengthen the life of your engine. With a Magnaflow diesel exhaust system, you have the benefit of years of experience in diesel performance on your side, and you know that the exhaust system will compliment all Dodge Cummins engines.

Magnaflow is one of the latest contributors to the four-inch performance diesel exhaust that has become standard. Magnaflow has also introduced a stainless steel mandrel bent system that carries a lifetime warranty, polished muffler and five-inch tip. The Magnaflow diesel exhaust system is definitely one that has made its mark and is a great choice for your vehicle.

MBRP

MBRP is also another great diesel performance company that can offer you the best in diesel exhaust systems. The MBRP Dodge Cummins exhaust is considered a must have if you are working with a Dodge Ram. The MBRP promises maximum gains with a direct bold on application that comes with a four-inch turbo down pipe. The MBRP will simply add horsepower, torque, improved fuel economy, and will lower exhaust gas temperatures. This is a quality buy for anyone looking to enhance diesel performance.

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Bully Dog

Bully dog is another outstanding diesel exhaust company that will provide custom-made diesel performance systems for your Ford, Dodge, or Chevrolet truck. Bully dog will promise immediate improvements in horsepower, throttle response, and pulling torque, not to mention the exhaust system looks awesome. Bully dog exhaust systems also lower gas temperatures by more than 200 degrees, which is ideal when you are pulling heavy loads. The bully dog performance exhaust packages will also increase gas mileage. A good exhaust system from a great company.

Banks

If you are looking for a diesel performance exhaust system from a company that knows diesel, Banks is an outstanding company. They've been around since 1897 improving the use of diesel for performance big and small. Banks is a company constantly implementing innovative techniques with a quality and consistency not often found.

As you can see, there are a lot of options for your diesel exhaust, depending on the type of truck you have, and what you want to see in the way of performance. These are all top-notch brands that you'll likely be happy with.

If you are looking for any diesel performance products such as diesel chips and exhaust please visit

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