

1-16 GENERAL INFORMATION AND MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance and tune-up is the key to long and trouble-free vehicle life, and the work can yield its own rewards. Studies have shown that a properly tuned and maintained vehicle can achieve better gas mileage than an out-of-tune vehicle. As a conscientious owner and driver, set aside a Saturday morning, say once a month, to check or replace items which could cause major problems later. Keep your own personal log to jot down which services you performed, how much the parts cost you, the date, and the exact odometer reading at the time. Keep all receipts for such items as engine oil and filters, so that they may be referred to in case of related problems or to determine operating expenses. As a do-it-yourselfer, these receipts are the only proof you have that the required maintenance was performed. In the event of a warranty problem, these receipts will be invaluable.

The literature provided with your vehicle when it was originally delivered includes the factory recommended maintenance schedule. If you no longer have this literature, replacement copies are usually available from the dealer. A maintenance schedule is provided later in this section, in case you do not have the factory literature.

Air Cleaner

If an engine maintenance procedure requires the temporary removal of the air cleaner, remove it; otherwise, never run the engine without it. The air filter should be replaced every 30,000 miles (50,000 km) under normal driving conditions.



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Fig. 36 Releasing the spring clips to remove the air cleaner cover—4.6L engine

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

♦ See Figures 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40

Locate the air cleaner in the engine compartment. Inspect the flexible air intake ducting for cracks and tears. If the ducting is torn it should be replaced.

The air cleaner element may be replaced easily.

1. Disengage the fasteners securing the top of the air cleaner.

⚡ **Some fasteners are clips, some are screws, depending on the vehicle configuration.**

2. Carefully pull the air filter cover back to expose the element.

3. Remove the air filter element.

4. Wipe out the housing with a clean rag.

To install:

5. Position the air filter element in the housing, make sure it seats properly.

6. Install the air cleaner cover.

7. Install the air cleaner fasteners, and tighten as necessary.

Fuel Filter

*** CAUTION

Observe all applicable safety precautions when working around fuel. Whenever servicing the fuel system, always work in a well ventilated area. Do not allow fuel spray

or vapors to be exposed to a spark or open flame. Keep a dry chemical fire extinguisher near the work area. Always keep fuel in a container specifically designed for fuel storage; also, always properly seal fuel containers to avoid the possibility of fire or explosion.

The purpose of the in-line fuel filter is to provide filtration to protect the small metering orifices of the injector nozzles. The filter is located downstream of the electric fuel pump and is mounted on the underbody. The fuel filter is a one-piece construction that cannot be cleaned. If it becomes clogged, it must be replaced.

REMOVAL & INSTALLATION

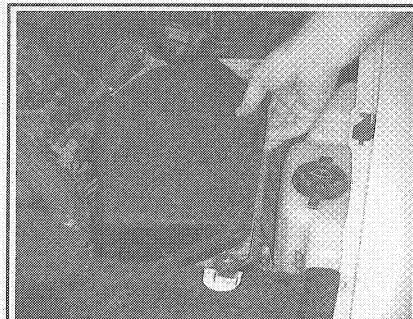
♦ See Figures 41 thru 49

*** CAUTION

Never smoke when working around gasoline! Avoid all sources of sparks or ignition. Gasoline vapors are EXTREMELY volatile!

*** CAUTION

Fuel supply lines on fuel injected vehicles will remain pressurized for some time after the engine is shut off. Fuel pressure must be relieved before servicing the fuel system.



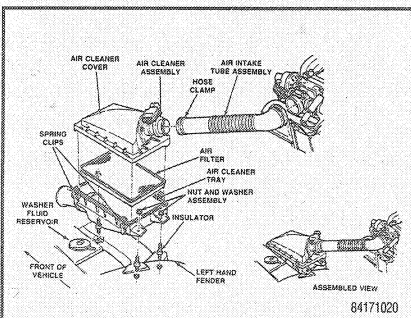
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Fig. 37 Lift the lid to access the spring clips and . . .



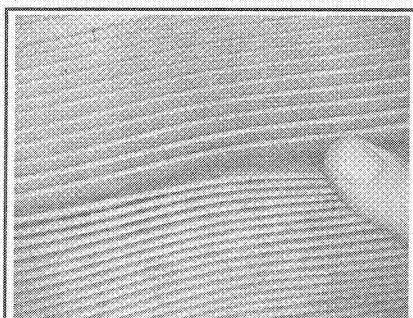
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Fig. 38 . . . remove the air cleaner element—4.6L engine



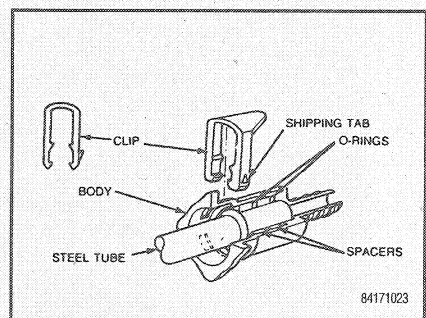
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Fig. 39 Air cleaner assembly—5.0L engine



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Fig. 40 Spread the air cleaner element to inspect it for dirt and contamination



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Fig. 41 Hairpin clip push connect fitting