

problems with 2012 subaru forester

problems with 2012 subaru forester have been a subject of concern for many vehicle owners and prospective buyers. While the 2012 Subaru Forester is praised for its all-wheel-drive capability, spacious interior, and solid performance, it also exhibits certain issues that can affect reliability and ownership satisfaction. Common challenges include engine performance concerns, transmission troubles, and electrical system glitches. This article provides a comprehensive overview of these issues, along with insights into safety recalls, maintenance tips, and cost implications. Understanding these problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester is essential for owners aiming to maintain their vehicles optimally or for buyers considering this model. Below is a detailed breakdown of the most frequently reported problems and how they impact the overall driving experience.

- Engine and Performance Issues
- Transmission Problems
- Electrical and Electronic System Concerns
- Safety Recalls and Known Defects
- Maintenance and Repair Cost Considerations

Engine and Performance Issues

The engine is the heart of any vehicle, and problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester's engine can significantly affect its reliability and performance. Many owners have reported various engine-related troubles that warrant attention.

Oil Consumption and Leaks

One of the most commonly reported problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester is excessive oil consumption. Some engines tend to burn oil more quickly than expected, leading to more frequent top-ups between oil changes. Additionally, oil leaks can develop around seals and gaskets, particularly the valve cover gasket and oil pan gasket. These leaks not only reduce oil levels but can also cause engine bay contamination and potential damage to other components if left untreated.

Engine Misfires and Rough Idling

Engine misfires and rough idling are other issues noted in this model year. Misfires can occur due to faulty spark plugs, ignition coils, or fuel delivery problems. These symptoms often result in decreased fuel efficiency, hesitation during acceleration, and a noticeable drop in engine smoothness. Ignoring these signs may lead to more severe engine damage over time.

Head Gasket Failure

Although more common in older Subaru models, some 2012 Forester owners have experienced head gasket leaks. This issue can cause coolant loss, overheating, and white exhaust smoke. Early detection and repair are crucial to prevent costly engine repairs or replacements.

Transmission Problems

The transmission system in the 2012 Subaru Forester has also been reported to have certain shortcomings, particularly concerning the Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) available in many trims.

CVT Shudder and Jerking

Owners frequently report a shuddering sensation or jerking when accelerating or decelerating. This CVT shudder is often linked to software calibration issues or mechanical wear within the transmission. It can also manifest as a delayed engagement when shifting from a stop or during gear ratio changes, leading to an uncomfortable driving experience.

Transmission Overheating

Transmission overheating warnings have been documented, especially under heavy load or towing conditions. Overheating can accelerate internal wear and potentially cause premature transmission failure if not addressed promptly. Regular transmission fluid changes and monitoring are recommended to mitigate this risk.

Premature Transmission Wear

Some 2012 Subaru Forester vehicles have exhibited signs of premature transmission

wear, including slipping gears and noisy operation. These symptoms often indicate internal component degradation, requiring professional inspection and possible rebuild or replacement.

Electrical and Electronic System Concerns

Electrical issues, while less frequent than mechanical problems, can still affect the overall reliability of the 2012 Subaru Forester. Several owners have reported glitches and malfunctions in this area.

Battery Drain and Alternator Failures

Unexpected battery drain and alternator failures have been noted, leading to starting difficulties and electrical system instability. These problems can be caused by faulty wiring, failing alternators, or parasitic electrical loads within the vehicle's systems.

Dashboard Warning Lights

Various dashboard warning lights, such as the check engine light, ABS, and traction control indicators, may illuminate without clear cause. These warnings often result from sensor malfunctions, wiring issues, or software glitches, necessitating diagnostic scans to identify and resolve the root cause.

Power Window and Door Lock Malfunctions

Some owners report intermittent problems with power windows and door locks, including failure to operate or erratic behavior. These electrical issues can be traced back to faulty switches, wiring problems, or control module errors.

Safety Recalls and Known Defects

Safety recalls are an important aspect of vehicle ownership, addressing manufacturing defects that could compromise safety. The 2012 Subaru Forester has been subject to several recalls and known defects that owners should be aware of.

Airbag Inflator Recall

One significant recall affecting the 2012 Forester involved the Takata airbag inflators, which may rupture upon deployment, causing injury or death. Owners are urged to verify recall status and have the inflators replaced free of charge.

Brake Light Switch Replacement

Another recall concerned the brake light switch, which in some cases failed to illuminate brake lights properly. This defect could increase the risk of rear-end collisions. Subaru has addressed this issue through recall campaigns to replace the faulty switches.

Fuel System and Emissions Defects

There have also been recalls related to fuel system components and emissions control that could impact vehicle safety and environmental compliance. These defects typically involve replacement of affected parts at authorized service centers.

Maintenance and Repair Cost Considerations

Understanding the maintenance requirements and potential repair costs associated with the 2012 Subaru Forester is essential for budgeting and long-term ownership planning.

Routine Maintenance Needs

Regular maintenance such as oil changes, brake inspections, and tire rotations are critical for preventing many common problems. The 2012 Forester's all-wheel-drive system also requires periodic differential fluid changes and transfer case maintenance to ensure longevity.

Common Repair Costs

Repair costs for engine and transmission issues can be substantial. For example, addressing oil leaks or head gasket repairs may range from several hundred to over a thousand dollars depending on severity. Transmission repairs or replacements, especially for CVT models, can be more expensive, potentially costing several thousand dollars.

Extended Warranty and Service Plans

Considering extended warranties or service plans can provide financial protection against unexpected problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester. These plans often cover major repairs and can help mitigate the impact of known issues discovered in this model year.

- Regular oil and fluid checks to prevent engine and transmission damage
- Prompt attention to warning lights and unusual noises
- Utilizing authorized Subaru service centers for recalls and repairs
- Maintaining detailed service records to assist with diagnostics and resale value

Frequently Asked Questions

What are common engine problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester?

Common engine problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester include excessive oil consumption, head gasket leaks, and occasional issues with the timing belt. Regular maintenance and timely repairs can help mitigate these issues.

Does the 2012 Subaru Forester have transmission issues?

Some owners of the 2012 Subaru Forester have reported transmission problems such as rough shifting or hesitation, especially in models equipped with the CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission). Keeping the transmission fluid changed can help reduce these problems.

Are there any known suspension problems with the 2012 Subaru Forester?

Yes, some 2012 Subaru Forester owners have experienced premature wear of suspension components like struts and bushings, which can lead to a noisy or uncomfortable ride. Regular inspections can help identify worn parts early.

What are the common electrical issues in the 2012 Subaru Forester?

Electrical problems reported in the 2012 Subaru Forester include malfunctioning power

windows, faulty door locks, and issues with the vehicle's infotainment system. Software updates and component replacements may be necessary to resolve these issues.

Is the 2012 Subaru Forester prone to excessive oil consumption?

Yes, excessive oil consumption is a known issue in some 2012 Subaru Forester models, often related to piston ring wear or valve seals. Owners should regularly monitor oil levels and address consumption issues promptly to prevent engine damage.

Are there any recalls related to the 2012 Subaru Forester?

The 2012 Subaru Forester has had several recalls, including issues related to the airbag system (Takata airbag inflators), fuel system, and electrical components. It's important to check with a Subaru dealer to ensure all recall work has been completed.

What should I do if my 2012 Subaru Forester is overheating?

If your 2012 Subaru Forester is overheating, common causes include a faulty thermostat, radiator issues, or coolant leaks. It's recommended to check coolant levels, inspect for leaks, and have a professional diagnose and repair the cooling system promptly to avoid engine damage.

Additional Resources

1. Common Issues and Repairs for the 2012 Subaru Forester

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the most frequently encountered problems in the 2012 Subaru Forester. It covers engine troubles, transmission issues, and electrical system glitches. The guide also offers practical solutions and maintenance tips to keep your Forester running smoothly.

2. 2012 Subaru Forester: Diagnosing and Fixing Engine Problems

Focusing specifically on engine-related concerns, this book delves into causes of rough idling, stalling, and loss of power in the 2012 Forester. Readers will find step-by-step diagnostics and repair instructions aimed at both DIY enthusiasts and professional mechanics. It also discusses preventive measures to avoid costly repairs.

3. Transmission Troubles in the 2012 Subaru Forester: A Repair Manual

This manual explains common transmission issues such as slipping, delayed shifting, and fluid leaks in the 2012 Forester. Detailed procedures for troubleshooting and fixing these problems are included, along with advice on regular maintenance. The book is designed to help owners extend the life of their vehicle's transmission system.

4. Electrical System Failures in the 2012 Subaru Forester

Explore the various electrical problems that can affect the 2012 Subaru Forester,

including battery drain, faulty wiring, and malfunctioning sensors. The book offers diagnostic techniques and repair tips tailored to the unique electrical layout of this model. Readers will learn how to identify issues early and perform effective repairs.

5. Suspension and Steering Problems in the 2012 Subaru Forester

This guide addresses common suspension and steering issues such as uneven tire wear, noisy shocks, and steering wheel vibration. It provides detailed explanations of symptoms, causes, and repair methods. The book is a valuable resource for those looking to improve ride comfort and vehicle handling.

6. 2012 Subaru Forester: Troubleshooting the Cooling System

Focusing on the cooling system, this book covers problems like overheating, coolant leaks, and radiator failures in the 2012 Forester. It includes diagnostic tips and repair procedures to help owners maintain optimal engine temperature. Preventive care advice is also provided to avoid breakdowns during driving.

7. Addressing Brake System Concerns in the 2012 Subaru Forester

Brake issues such as squealing, reduced stopping power, and ABS malfunctions are explored in this book. It guides readers through inspection, diagnosis, and repair of brake components specific to the 2012 Forester. The book emphasizes safety and proper maintenance techniques.

8. 2012 Subaru Forester: Interior and Exterior Common Problems

This book highlights common cosmetic and functional problems including door lock failures, window issues, and dashboard warning lights. It offers simple fixes and advice for maintaining the vehicle's aesthetics and usability. The guide also discusses warranty considerations and when to seek professional help.

9. Maintenance and Prevention: Keeping Your 2012 Subaru Forester Problem-Free

Designed as a proactive resource, this book focuses on routine maintenance schedules and preventive care to minimize problems with the 2012 Forester. It covers oil changes, filter replacements, fluid checks, and other essential upkeep tasks. The goal is to help owners extend their vehicle's lifespan and avoid costly repairs.

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