



## TIME FOR A NEW BELT?

### What is a timing belt?

Your vehicle's timing belt (also known as the cam belt) is a critical component that connects and controls the timing and correct operation of many of the engine's major internal parts such as the camshaft, crankshaft and valves.

Typically it is made of a rubber-based polymer reinforced with fibreglass and nylon, with integral teeth on the inner edge that usually have one of three basic profiles depending on the engine and application.

Belts are used because they are quiet, reliable and maintenance-free.



### Why replace it routinely?

As is the case with all moving parts your timing belt is subject to wear. The high quality materials used in the manufacture of timing belts installed on Renault vehicles since the late 1990s means that they are now longer-lasting and often do not show obvious visual signs of wear.

However, like tyres for example, they do wear out gradually over time as they experience rubber loss. When this happens a belt loses its ability to grip or function properly and can slip, which puts a strain on other engine components causing them to malfunction and eventually fail.

Timing belts can also fail prematurely because of one of the following reasons:

- **incorrect tension:** the belt was incorrectly tensioned when fitted, or the tensioner locking bolt not sufficiently tightened.
- **contamination:** the belt has become contaminated with grit, oil, coolant or other undesirable materials
- **excessive wear:** one of the tensioners or the idler pulley has either seized or broken, or another component driven by the timing belt (i.e. the water pump) has seized or has excessive play.
- **substandard components:** the belt or associated part is substandard or faulty.
- **misaligned cover:** the timing belt cover has been fitted incorrectly (i.e. chafes or lets in dirt)

Ultimately, if a timing belt snaps when the engine is running, major damage can be caused to engine valves and pistons - damage that can be very expensive to put right. If you do get away without major engine damage, timing belt failure will still leave you stranded and requiring breakdown recovery. The best way to prevent this is to replace the belt at regular intervals.

### **Changing the timing belt is preventative maintenance.**

The recommended replacement cycle for each vehicle will be detailed in the handbook.

N.B. The suggested replacement intervals are recommendations only and are based upon average vehicle operations under normal conditions. Belts may fail sooner, or last longer, depending on a variety of factors including driving and temperature conditions.

### **Why choose Renault?**

Timing belts for different applications are not interchangeable, so when the time comes to replace the belts on your vehicle, Renault workshops are the only place you can be sure that **Renault approved parts** are being used.

In addition our Renault highly trained technicians will always replace the belt and the associated components at the same time giving extra engine reliability and greater safety for the motorist.

