1997-2005 Buick Century - Engine Air Filter

1997-2005 Buick Century | Easy | 15-25 minutes | $35 DIY

TOOLS

Flat-blade screwdriver Shop vacuum or damp rag

PARTS

Engine air filter for 1997-2005 Buick Century; verify engine, housing shape, and VIN fitment $35.00

STEPS

1. **Find the airbox behind the left headlight - Pop the hood on your 1997-2005 Century and** look behind the driver's-side headlight - that's where GM tucked the airbox on these W-body cars, ahead of the 3.1L V6. Wipe the dirt off the box before opening it.
2. **Flip open the lid's spring clips - If a clip is rusted stiff, work it gently rather than** forcing it; a snapped clip means a lid that won't stay shut, and replacements mean a trip to the parts store.
3. **Loosen the outlet duct clamp - You don't need to remove the clamp or the duct, back it** off so the lid and upper half have room to lift without dragging the ducting.
4. **Lift the lid and pull the old filter - Pull the old element out and look at the pleats:** on Centuries that run country roads, this box loads up with dust and even field debris, which is why the 3.1L can start feeling flat on acceleration.
5. **Clean the lower housing - Vacuum or wipe out the lower housing, getting into the corners** and the channel where the filter's rubber frame seals. Don't unplug it unless you need the slack, and never touch its sensing element.
6. **Drop the new filter into the lower housing - On the 3.1L, an unseated filter lets dirty** air bypass the media and foul the throttle body, so walk your finger around the perimeter to confirm nothing is rolled under.
7. **Re-lid, re-clip, and re-clamp - Lower the air cleaner cover back onto the lower housing** so it sits square - if it rocks, the filter is misaligned, so reseat it before forcing anything. Listen for whistling around the box and make sure the idle is smooth.

TORQUE

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