1995-2005 Chevrolet Astro - Spark Plug Replacement

1995-2005 Chevrolet Astro | Advanced | 120-180 minutes | $36 DIY

TOOLS

Jack and stands Lug wrench 5/8-inch spark-plug socket Extensions and swivel Feeler gauge Gloves

PARTS

Spark plugs (6, gapped to spec) $36.00
Plug wires (recommended with plugs)

STEPS

1. **Cool the engine and plan your access - Let the 4.3L V6 cool fully - the Astro’s tight** engine bay holds heat. Disconnect the negative battery terminal.
2. **Remove the front wheels for access - Loosen the front lug nuts, raise the van on jack** stands, and remove both front wheels. This step is what makes the job possible.
3. **Label and remove the plug wires - The plug wires run from the distributor (under the** doghouse) down to each plug. Working one wire at a time, twist the boot at the plug end to break it free and pull it off. Label each wire by cylinder as you go - the 4.3L firing order mu...
4. **Remove the old plugs - Fit a 5/8-inch spark-plug socket with extensions and a swivel** through the wheel-well opening onto each plug. Loosen each plug and lift it out with the socket.
5. **Gap and install the new plugs - Check the gap on each new plug against the specification** on the underhood sticker (typically 0.060 inch for the Vortec 4.3L). Thread each plug in by hand using the extension alone until it seats. Snug with the ratchet once hand-tight.
6. **Reinstall wires, shields, and wheels - Push each plug wire boot firmly onto its new plug** until it clicks, following your labels. Refit the wheel-well splash shields, reinstall the wheels, and lower the van. Torque the lug nuts in a star pattern.
7. **Reconnect and road-test - Reconnect the battery and start the engine - it should idle** smoothly. Take a test drive; the Vortec 4.3L should pull cleanly without hesitation.

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