

2016-2025 Chevrolet Malibu | Advanced | 1 hour | \$90 DIY

TOOLS

10mm Socket Flathead Screwdriver Jack
Stands 3/8-inch Ratchet Pliers
Phillips Head Screwdriver

PARTS

Serpentine Belt \$45.00
Serpentine Belt \$40.00

STEPS

- 1 Document belt routing and cool the engine - Park on level ground, set the parking brake,** and ensure the engine is off and cool. Photograph or sketch the serpentine belt routing on the pulley sticker (or draw it). Wear eye protection - a tensioner under spring load can snap.
- 2 Relieve tensioner and remove the old belt - Use a serpentine-belt tool, long breaker bar,** or the specified socket on the tensioner. Rotate the tensioner to slack the belt, then slip the belt off one pulley. Slowly release the tensioner. Remove the belt from all pulleys.
- 3 Inspect pulleys and tensioner - Spin each idler and the tensioner pulley by hand -** roughness, play, or seized bearings mean replace that pulley/tensioner with the belt. Check for oil/coolant contamination on pulleys. Compare the new belt's rib count and length to the...
- 4 Route the new belt - Route the new belt exactly per the diagram, leaving the easiest** pulley (often the alternator or tensioner) for last. Confirm every rib sits fully in each pulley groove - a half-rib misroute will shred the belt quickly.
- 5 Tension and double-check alignment - Rotate the tensioner again, slip the belt onto the** last pulley, and slowly release so the tensioner takes up slack. Verify the belt is centered on every pulley and the tensioner indicator is in the acceptable range if marked.
- 6 Start the engine and verify quiet operation - Start the engine and watch the belt for** several seconds - it should run true without chirps or wobble. If it squeals, shut down and recheck routing/contamination. Reinstall any shields or undercovers removed for access.