

2007-2012 Lexus ES | Moderate | 45-60 minutes

TOOLS

14mm socket and ratchet 64mm oil filter cap wrench (cartridge housing) Oil drain pan (7+ quart capacity) Funnel Shop towels Jack and jack stands or ramps Torque wrench Gloves and safety glasses

PARTS

Engine oil (viscosity and 6.4 qt quantity per owner's manual)
Cartridge oil filter element with o-rings
Drain plug crush washer

STEPS

- 1 Warm the engine and lift the ES safely - Start the 3.5L V6 and let it idle for 2-3 minutes** so the oil warms and drains quickly. Park the ES on a flat, level surface, shift into Park, set the parking brake, then raise the front on ramps or jack stands.
- 2 Remove the engine undercover - The ES has a plastic splash shield under the engine** that blocks access to the drain plug and filter housing. Remove its bolts and clips with a socket and trim tool, then set the cover aside where it will not get dirty.
- 3 Position the drain pan and remove the drain plug - Slide a wide drain pan under the oil pan** at the front of the engine. Fit a 14mm socket on the drain plug, turn counterclockwise, and finish by hand while pushing inward so you can pull the plug away fast once the threads release.
- 4 Drain the oil and reinstall the plug - Let the oil drain until it slows to an occasional drip**, which takes several minutes on the 2GR-FE. Wipe the plug and pan surface clean, fit a new crush washer, thread the plug in by hand, then snug it with the 14mm socket without overtight...
- 5 Open the cartridge filter housing - The 2GR-FE uses a plastic cartridge housing on the front** of the engine rather than a spin-on filter. Fit a 64mm cap wrench over the housing, turn counterclockwise, and lower it carefully since it holds about half a quart of oil.
- 6 Swap the filter element and o-rings - Pull the old paper element off the housing stem** and remove the large o-ring from its groove. Lubricate the new o-ring with fresh oil, seat it in the correct groove, snap the new element onto the stem, and thread the housing back on by hand...
- 7 Refill with fresh oil - Reinstall the undercover, lower the car to level ground, and** remove the oil filler cap on the valve cover. Pour in 6.4 quarts of the viscosity listed in the owner's manual through a funnel, checking the dipstick as you approach full.
- 8 Check for leaks and reset the maintenance light - Start the engine and let it run for 30 seconds** while you look under the car for drips at the drain plug and filter housing. Shut it off, wait two minutes, recheck the dipstick level, and reset the maintenance-required light through the ins...