2003-2009 Lexus GX - Spark Plug Replacement

2003-2009 Lexus GX | Advanced | 90-120 minutes | $95 DIY

TOOLS

16 mm (5/8 in) spark plug socket Ratchet with extensions and universal joint 10 mm socket for coil bolts Torque wrench Gap gauge Compressed air or vacuum

PARTS

8 spark plugs for the 4.7L 2UZ-FE (pre-gapped per spec) $95.00
Anti-seize (optional, sparing) $3.00

STEPS

1. **Work on a cold engine - Let the GX470 sit until the 4.7L 2UZ-FE V8 is completely cold -** overnight-cold is ideal. Pulling plugs from a hot aluminum head risks stripping the threads, which turns a tune-up into a cylinder-head repair. While you wait, confirm your...
2. **Remove the engine cover - The rearmost coils sit close to the firewall, so stage a 16 mm** spark plug socket with a rubber insert, a 6-inch and a 3-inch extension, and a universal joint. Disconnect the negative battery terminal while you're here.
3. **Disconnect the coil connectors - Unplug the electrical connector from each of the eight** ignition coils, working one bank at a time. Squeeze each locking tab and pull the plug straight back - never tug the wiring.
4. **Remove the coils - Remove the 10 mm bolt from each coil and pull each coil straight up** out of its well, keeping them in cylinder order on a rag.
5. **Blow out the plug wells - Use compressed air or a vacuum to clear dirt and debris from** each spark plug well BEFORE loosening a single plug. The GX470's deep wells collect years of grit, and the moment a plug backs out, anything on top of it drops into the cylinder...
6. **Remove the old plugs - With the 16 mm socket, extensions, and a universal joint where** needed, remove all eight old plugs counterclockwise. The rubber insert fishes each plug out of its deep well.
7. **Gap and install the new plugs - Verify the gap on each new plug - 0.031 in for the early** copper K20R-U, 0.043 in for the later iridium SK20R11 - even if the box says pre-gapped. Thread each plug in by hand for several turns to avoid cross-threading the aluminum head,...
8. **Reinstall the coils - Press each coil firmly onto its plug and refit the 10 mm bolts -** snug, not gorilla-tight, since they thread into aluminum.
9. **Reassemble and test - Refit the engine cover and reconnect the negative battery terminal.** Start the engine and confirm a smooth idle with no misfire codes - the 2UZ-FE should idle nearly silently. Take it for a drive with some load, like a highway on-ramp pul...

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