1990-2005 Mazda MX-5 - Oil and Filter Change

1990-2005 Mazda MX-5 | Easy | 30-60 minutes | $40 DIY

TOOLS

Floor jack and two jack stands (or low-profile car ramps) Wheel chocks Ratchet with correct socket for the drain plug Oil filter cap wrench (for tight space under intake manifold) Oil drain pan (at least 4 quarts) Funnel Nitrile gloves Safety glasses Shop rags

PARTS

Engine oil (10W-30 or 5W-30 per owner's manual; approx. 3.8 US quarts with filter) $26.00
Spin-on oil filter $13.00
Oil drain plug crush washer $1.00

STEPS

1. **Warm the engine and set up - Drive the Miata for about 5 minutes so the oil warms up and** drains quickly, then park on a level surface and engage the parking brake.
2. **Raise the front and support it safely - The NA and NB Miata sit very low, so drive it** onto low-profile ramps or lift the front with a floor jack on the front subframe and set jack stands under the reinforced pinch welds. Confirm the car is completely stable before you slide unde...
3. **Drain the oil from the pan - Slide a drain pan under the oil pan and loosen the drain** plug, finishing the last turns by hand while pressing the plug inward so the warm oil stream stays aimed at the pan. Let the oil drain for a full 10 to 15 minutes until it slows to o...
4. **Remove the oil filter from under the intake manifold - The spin-on oil filter on the NA** and NB Miata screws into the right side of the engine block underneath the intake manifold, which is a tight spot, so reach it from above or below with a cap-style filter wrench. Tuck a rag under the filter...
5. **Install the new filter and drain plug - Smear fresh oil on the new filter's rubber gasket** with your finger and thread the filter on by hand until the gasket touches the boss, then give it another three-quarter turn, which is all the seal needs. Fit the new crush washer onto the...
6. **Refill the oil and check the level - Lower the Miata back onto level ground, place a** funnel in the valve-cover filler neck, and pour in fresh oil, about 4.0 US quarts (3.8L) with a filter change on the 1.6L or 1.8L. Reinstall the filler cap, start the engine for 30 seconds to...
7. **Check for leaks - Start the engine and let it idle while you look underneath for any** drips at the drain plug and around the oil filter. Recycle the used oil and the old filter at an auto parts store.

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