2002-2010 Mercury Mountaineer - Spark Plug

2002-2010 Mercury Mountaineer | Moderate | 90-150 minutes | $10 DIY

TOOLS

5/8-inch spark plug socket Ratchet with extensions Coil retaining bolt socket 10mm wrench Torque wrench Gap gauge Dielectric grease Compressed air

PARTS

Spark plugs, Motorcraft OE spec (8)
Ignition coil packs (replace any cracked ones)
Dielectric grease $10.00

STEPS

1. **Prepare the cold engine - With the 4.6L V8 fully cold, disconnect the negative battery** cable and remove covers blocking the coil packs. Blow compressed air around each coil base to clear grit from the plug wells; work one cylinder at a time.
2. **Disconnect and remove the first coil pack - Squeeze the tab and pull the connector** straight off - never yank the wires. Remove the coil retaining bolt and lift the coil out with a gentle twist. Inspect the boot for cracks or carbon tracking; replace any damaged coil.
3. **Remove the old spark plug - Break the plug loose with a 5/8-inch socket and extension,** unthread it, and lift it out; check its color and wear as a health readout for that cylinder. Verify the new Motorcraft-spec plug matches the old one’s reach and thread.
4. **Gap and install the new plug - Set the new plug’s gap to the emissions label spec and** thread it in by hand to protect the aluminum head threads. Torque to spec - snug, not crushed. Cross-threading aluminum is expensive to fix.
5. **Reinstall the coil and repeat per cylinder - Smear dielectric grease inside the coil** boot, press the coil firmly onto the plug until seated, and reinstall its bolt. Reconnect the connector until the locking tab clicks. Repeat for the remaining seven cylinders, keeping track of which...
6. **Verify connections and road-test - Confirm every coil connector is latched and every bolt** is back. Reconnect the battery cable and start the engine, listening for an even idle. Road-test under light and moderate load - a flashing check-engine light means stop and recheck...

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