2003-2006 Subaru Baja - Engine Oil & Filter Change

2003-2006 Subaru Baja | Moderate | 30-60 minutes | $57 DIY

TOOLS

Floor jack or ramps and rated jack stands if needed Oil-drain pan, funnel, gloves, and eye protection Socket or wrench for the drain plug and oil-filter tool
Calibrated torque wrench and shop towels
17mm Socket

PARTS

Engine Oil (5W-30) $45.00
Correct engine oil filter and drain-plug washer for 2003-2006 Subaru Baja $12.00

STEPS

1. **Confirm the Baja’s oil spec and get a new washer - EJ25: about 4.2 quarts of 5W-30 with** filter change, per FSM. Spin-on filter, drain pan, 17mm, NEW crush washer. EJ plug strips easily - never reuse a washer. Park level; brake set; chock wheels; raise front on ramps or stands.
2. **Remove the splash shield and locate the filter - Warm briefly; shut it off. Filter points** straight DOWN behind a small shield - remove it. The 17mm plug is on the pan’s bottom. Pan under plug first. Cladding hides the shield screws - look along the bumper’s lower edge.
3. **Drain the oil and swap the filter - Remove the drain plug; drain fully. NEW crush washer;** 33 ft-lbs max (44 Nm turbo). Don’t overtighten. Unscrew the old filter; wipe the boss; oil the new gasket; hand-tight plus a quarter turn. Plug feels crunchy? Stop.
4. **Refit the shield and refill - Double-check the plug and filter; refit the shield; lower** to level ground. Pour in about 4.2 quarts of 5W-30. Wait a minute; check the dipstick - small splashes to the full mark.
5. **Check for leaks and verify the level - Start 30 seconds; check for drips. Shut off; wait;** recheck. Recycle oil and filter. After a heat cycle, check the filter base for seepage - EJ25 head gaskets weep externally with age; oil near filter isn’t always the filter’s fault.

TORQUE

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