2003-2008 Toyota Corolla - Spark Plug Replacement

2003-2008 Toyota Corolla | Moderate | 45-60 minutes | $32 DIY

TOOLS

16 mm (5/8 in) spark plug socket Ratchet with 6 in extension 10 mm socket Torque wrench Gap gauge Dielectric grease (optional)

PARTS

4 NGK or Denso iridium spark plugs (pre-gapped 0.043 in / 1.1 mm) $32.00

STEPS

1. **Disconnect the battery and remove the engine cover - Disconnect the negative battery** terminal. If your Corolla has a plastic engine cover, lift it off to expose the four ignition coils on top of the valve cover. The 2003-2008 Corolla's 1.8L 1ZZ-FE runs coil-on-plug - four individual coils,...
2. **Remove the ignition coils - Unplug the electrical connector from each coil - squeeze the** locking tab and pull straight back, never yank the wiring - then remove the single 10 mm bolt holding each coil. Pull each coil straight up and set them aside in order on a r...
3. **Blow debris out of the plug wells - Use compressed air or a shop vacuum to clear dirt** from around each plug before removal. The Corolla's plug wells are deep and collect years of grit, and debris falling into the cylinder causes scoring and misfires. Shine a flashlight down...
4. **Remove the old spark plugs - Fit the 16 mm spark plug socket with the extension onto the** first plug and turn counterclockwise to remove it.
5. **Gap and install the new plugs - Verify each new Denso SK16R11 is gapped to 0.043 in (1.1** mm) - check with a wire gauge even though they come pre-gapped, and never pry on the fine iridium center electrode. Thread each plug in by hand first for several turns to avoid cro...
6. **Reinstall the coils and cover - Press each coil firmly onto its plug until it seats,** refit the 10 mm bolts - snug, since they thread into the aluminum valve cover - and reconnect the electrical plugs until each locking tab clicks.
7. **Start the engine and verify - Start the engine and let it idle. Take a short drive to** confirm the misfire is gone, including some steady cruising and a bit of load.

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