2006-2012 Toyota RAV4 - Oil and Filter Change

2006-2012 Toyota RAV4 | Moderate | 30-45 minutes | $58 DIY

TOOLS

14mm socket and ratchet 64mm oil filter cap wrench (cartridge housing) Oil drain pan (6+ quart capacity) Funnel Shop towels Ramps or jack and jack stands Gloves and safety glasses

PARTS

Engine oil (0W-20, 4.5 qt per owner's manual) $39.00
Cartridge oil filter element with o-rings (correct for 2.5L 2AR-FE) $17.00
Drain plug gasket $2.00

STEPS

1. **Warm the engine and raise the RAV4 - Warm the RAV4's engine two to three minutes so the** oil flows, then shut it off. Raise the front on ramps or rated jack stands; park level, set the parking brake, and chock the rear wheels. If your RAV4 has the full undertray, remove its fa...
2. **Remove the drain plug and drain - Position the drain pan under the plug, remove it, and** let the RAV4 drain fully. Keep the pan positioned; the 2AR-FE drains quickly at first and splashes.
3. **Reinstall the drain plug - Refit the drain plug with a fresh washer, snugged firmly; do** not over-tighten the aluminum pan threads. Wipe the area clean so any future seepage is easy to spot. The aluminum pan's threads are the weak point of this job; if the plug feels...
4. **Open the cartridge filter housing - Locate the black plastic cartridge housing under the** front of the engine. Loosen it with an oil-filter cap wrench, drain it into the pan, and lift the housing off.
5. **Replace the element and o-ring - Pull out the old element and drop in the new one, then** fit the new O-ring into the housing groove, lightly oiled so it seats without pinching, and tighten the cap to its marked torque.
6. **Add 4.5 quarts of 0W-20 - Add about 4.3 quarts of SAE 0W-20 through a funnel, then wait a** few minutes and check the dipstick. The 2.5L takes 4.6 quarts with a filter, and the 3.5L V6 instead takes 6.4 quarts of 5W-30; early 2.4L cars were spec'd 5W-20, which remain...
7. **Check for leaks and reset the light - Start the RAV4 briefly, switch it off, wait two** minutes, and recheck the level on level ground. Inspect the drain plug and cartridge housing for leaks, refit the undertray, and reset the maintenance-required light with the trip-meter butto...

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