SAC
Springfield Auto Care EXAMPLE SHOP
service@springfield-auto-care.example

2004 Pontiac Grand Prix at 120,000 mi

2G2WP52K941123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Grand Prix · Grand Prix GT 3.8L V6 sedan	GM 3800 Series II and III 3.8L V6 (L36, L67, L26, L32)	120,000 mi	FWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 28, 2026	Shop	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code '4' = 2004, matches the year entered. The VIN doesn't record the build month. Sample report: synthetic VIN.

1 · SUMMARY

What this car needs, in order

Each item compares this car's mileage with when owners and shops report the part failing. It is not an inspection: our technician decides what the car actually needs.

2
jobs recommended now

0
to plan in the next 30,000 miles · plus 3 factory maintenance items

1
to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (7)

- **15V-701** · Engine · front valve cover gasket: Oil can drip from the front valve cover onto the hot exhaust manifold and start a fire. The first recall repair was not enough; dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket again.
- **15V-201** · Engine · front valve cover gasket: The front valve cover gasket can leak oil onto the hot exhaust manifold, which can start a fire.
- **14V-400** · Ignition switch · key position: A heavy key ring or a jolt can turn the key out of RUN; the engine can shut off and the air bags may not deploy in a crash.
- **05V-046** · Accelerator pedal · return springs: If a pedal return spring breaks in extreme cold (−22 °F or colder), the engine may be slow to return to idle, so stopping takes more effort and distance.
- **04V-299** · Frame · rear body mount bracket: The front frame body mount bracket can crack; if ignored, the intermediate steering shaft can separate and steering can be lost.
- **04V-287** · Brakes · front caliper bolts: Front caliper bolts may be under-tightened and can back out or break, which can lock a wheel, cut braking or damage a brake hose.
- **03V-331** · Brakes · right rear brake hose fitting: The right rear brake hose fitting may not be tight and can leak brake fluid, giving a low pedal and longer stops.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. Repairs are free at a GM dealer if open. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Check this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Step 0 · Free: run the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls and ask a GM dealer for a campaign printout, including 15V-201, 15V-701. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service — $140

Inspection: check now, while it's cheaper to fix — $140

Intake manifold coolant leaks (upper manifold and lower gasket): Past the range (40,000–90,000 mi, the middle half of 25 owner reports) · if it fails: $680–$950

inspection EXAMPLE

Known weak point for this engine, not a finding on your car. The inspection shows whether yours has early signs.

Front valve cover gasket oil leak onto the exhaust (fire recall)

Free if open

Recalls 15V-201, 15V-701 are listed for this model year. Check the VIN; the repair is free at a GM dealer if it is open.

Next 12 months up to about 132,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 150,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

Watch inspect at each service, fix on condition, or optional

Plastic coolant elbows crack and leak — Ask us for a quote

Any mileage (Older, high-mileage engines) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Recommended now

$140

Springfield Auto Care prices (example)

Planned through 150,000 mi

From $827

Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles, with the factory maintenance on this report if the records don’t show it done. Excludes “watch” and optional items.

Prices are Springfield Auto Care's estimates for typical parts and labor. They don't include tax, shop supplies or disposal fees, and may change after inspection or if part prices change. Not a written repair estimate: Springfield Auto Care confirms the price and gets your OK before any work.

Bundled jobs are priced together because the labor overlaps. Routine service (oil, brakes, tires) isn't included; factory fluid and spark plug intervals are listed below.

FACTORY MAINTENANCE

Scheduled maintenance from 120,000 mi to 150,000 mi

The maker's normal schedule for this car. Service history isn't known here, so an item is shown at its next interval mark; skip it if the records show it was done.

ITEM	INTERVAL	THIS CAR	OUR PRICE
Spark plugs	every 100,000 mi	**Was due at 100,000 mi (check records)** [M1][M2][M3][M4][M5]	**$249**
Engine coolant DEX-COOL: drain, flush and refill every 150,000 mi or 5 years, whichever comes first.	every 150,000 mi or 5 years	**Due by age: every 5 years (check records)** [M1][M2][M3][M5]	**From $179**
Automatic transmission fluid Every 100,000 mi normal; 50,000 mi severe (hot city traffic, hills, towing, taxi/police).	every 100,000 mi	**Was due at 100,000 mi (check records)** [M1][M2][M3][M6][M5]	**$259**

M1. 2000 Chevrolet Impala Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2000_chevrolet_impala_owners.pdf

M2. 2003 Buick LeSabre Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/buick/2003_buick_lesabre_owners.pdf

M3. 2004 Chevrolet Impala Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2004_chevrolet_impala_owners.pdf

M4. 2001 Chevrolet Camaro Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2001_chevrolet_camaro_owners.pdf

M5. 2006 Buick Lucerne Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/buick/2006_buick_lucerne_owners.pdf

M6. 2005 Pontiac Grand Prix Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/pontiac/2005_pontiac_grand_prix_owners.pdf

WHERE 120K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Intake manifold coolant leaks (upper manifold and lower gasket)	40,000–90,000 mi (middle half of 25 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA	Past the range
2	Plastic coolant elbows crack and leak	Older, high-mileage engines FORUM/BLOG	Any mileage
3	Front valve cover gasket oil leak onto the exhaust (fire recall)	1997–2004 Regal and Grand Prix, 2000–2004 Impala and Monte Carlo with the 3.8L OFFICIAL	Any mileage

Colors compare mileage with reported failures, not the car's condition. Red: past the range. Amber: inside or approaching. Green: below, or not listed for a recall.

2 · RECALLS AND BULLETINS

Recalls to check for this 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix

Safety recall repairs are free at GM dealers. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Nothing here can tell whether a recall is open or already done on this VIN; only the official VIN lookup or a dealer can.

Official VIN check (2 minutes)

1. Go to nhtsa.gov/recalls and enter 2G2WP52K941123456.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a GM dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

3.8L V6 (3800 SERIES II / III) RECALLS WE TRACK

09V-116 · Front valve cover gasket oil can drip on the exhaust manifold (1997–2003 3.8L non-supercharged)

Not listed for MY2004

Oil may drip onto the hot exhaust manifold during hard braking and start a fire. Dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket with improved parts, free. OFFICIAL [9]

08V-118 · Front valve cover gasket oil seepage (1997–2003 Regal and Grand Prix supercharged)

Not listed for MY2004

Hotter front valve cover gaskets can seep oil onto the exhaust manifold and start a fire. Dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket, free. OFFICIAL [9]

15V-201 · Valve cover gasket may leak (2004 Regal, Impala, Monte Carlo, Grand Prix)

NHTSA lists this model and year: check by VIN

Oil can drip onto the hot exhaust manifold, a fire risk. Dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket, free. OFFICIAL [9]

☐ VIN checked ☐ Open: booked with dealer ☐ Completed (printout kept)

15V-701 · Improved repair for the valve cover recalls (1997–2004)

NHTSA lists this model and year: check by VIN

The first repair under 08V-118, 09V-116 and 15V-201 did not remove the fire risk. Dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket again, free. OFFICIAL [9]

☐ VIN checked ☐ Open: booked with dealer ☐ Completed (printout kept)

Other 3.8L V6 (3800 Series II / III) recalls we track, not listed by NHTSA for this model and year: 03V-238 (fuel tank pressure sensor (2002–2003 Bonneville SSEi supercharged)).

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2004 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX (7)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
15V-701 3.8L V6 (3800 Series II / III) tracked	Engine · front valve cover gasket	Oil can drip from the front valve cover onto the hot exhaust manifold and start a fire. The first recall repair was not enough; dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket again. Details
15V-201 3.8L V6 (3800 Series II / III) tracked	Engine · front valve cover gasket	The front valve cover gasket can leak oil onto the hot exhaust manifold, which can start a fire. Details
14V-400	Ignition switch · key position	A heavy key ring or a jolt can turn the key out of RUN; the engine can shut off and the air bags may not deploy in a crash. Details
05V-046	Accelerator pedal · return springs	If a pedal return spring breaks in extreme cold (−22 °F or colder), the engine may be slow to return to idle, so stopping takes more effort and distance. Details
04V-299	Frame · rear body mount bracket	The front frame body mount bracket can crack; if ignored, the intermediate steering shaft can separate and steering can be lost. Details
04V-287	Brakes · front caliper bolts	Front caliper bolts may be under-tightened and can back out or break, which can lock a wheel, cut braking or damage a brake hose. Details
03V-331	Brakes · right rear brake hose fitting	The right rear brake hose fitting may not be tight and can leak brake fluid, giving a low pedal and longer stops. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-27 and combined across NHTSA model names: GRAND PRIX. Safety categories (air bags, fire, brakes, stalling, roll-away and loss of control) are listed first; listings whose NHTSA text names another engine, or an aftermarket part, go last. OFFICIAL

Left out of this list (GRAND PRIX): Two listings are left out of this sample: 09E-025 (aftermarket corner/bumper lamps) and 09E-005 (aftermarket replacement steering knuckles). Both are equipment recalls, not factory parts. A VIN check would show any factory recall that applies.

SERVICE ACTIONS, BULLETINS AND WARRANTY PROGRAMS

Manufacturer bulletins and warranty programs for this engine are cited on each weak point in section 4, where they apply.

4 · THE 3 WEAK POINTS

Each weak point, one card each

Every figure carries its source. Retailer part numbers are shown only when the retailer lists them for this chassis (W-body). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: Fuel pressure regulator leak and intake backfire (recall).

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1 Intake manifold coolant leaks (upper manifold and lower gasket)

Past the range

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 202 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

At 120,000 mi this car is past the reported range (40,000–90,000 mi (middle half of 25 owner complaints that state a mileage)). If the original parts are still fitted, have them checked and plan for them. Range: 40,000–90,000 mi (middle half of 25 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1]



Applies to: all 3800 engines, usually after about 60,000 miles; a GM program covered 2000–2003 cars

WHAT FAILS SHOP/RETAILER [2][3][4][5]

Coolant can leak at the plastic upper intake manifold (where it breaks down around the EGR passage) and at the lower intake manifold gasket. GM ran a customer satisfaction program on 2000–2003 cars for leaks at the throttle body gasket and the upper-to-lower manifold gasket, and later sold new upper manifold and gasket kits. A trade article says the original lower gasket tends to deteriorate after about 60,000 miles, and coolant that reaches the crankcase can damage the bearings.

SYMPTOMS

- Coolant level keeps dropping
- Sweet smell or coolant at the throttle body area
- Milky oil
- Engine runs hot

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Coolant in the oil can ruin the bearings; low coolant can overheat the engine.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Yes, at the first sign of coolant loss. Replace upper and lower gaskets together with revised parts.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Intake manifold gasket replacement, 3.8L LeSabre (YourMechanic quotes)	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=8)	**$680–$950** COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1] reported range for the bill after a failure

Where the numbers come from: Computed from 8 NHTSA owner complaints that quote a repair bill for this problem (middle half of the bills; median $730). Examples: ODI 770682, 10407654, 10221338, 10180873. Owner-reported, often dealer prices; not shop quotes. Early range: YourMechanic model-year quotes for a 3.8L LeSabre (parts and labor).

PARTS FOR W-BODY

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Intake gaskets or upper manifold ever replaced?
- Any coolant top-ups?
- Any milky oil?

2 Plastic coolant elbows crack and leak

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 5 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Older, high-mileage engines), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Older, high-mileage engines FORUM/BLOG [7][8]

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG [7][8]

The engine has small plastic coolant elbows at the intake. Owners and a parts guide report that they get brittle, crack and leak, and can break when removed. The common advice is to replace them with aluminum elbows during an intake gasket job.

SYMPTOMS

- Coolant leak at the front of the intake
- Coolant spray under hard throttle

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A cracked elbow can dump coolant quickly and overheat the engine.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Yes, replace them during any intake job; they are cheap.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

No published price (low-cost part; usually done with the intake job)	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
No published price	**No published price** reported range for the bill after a failure

PARTS FOR W-BODY

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Elbows replaced with aluminum ones?

3 Front valve cover gasket oil leak onto the exhaust (fire recall)

Any mileage

Severity: Critical: rare, but can badly damage the engine · 101 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (1997–2004 Regal and Grand Prix, 2000–2004 Impala and Monte Carlo with the 3.8L), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 1997–2004 Regal and Grand Prix, 2000–2004 Impala and Monte Carlo with the 3.8L OFFICIAL [9]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [9]

GM recalled these cars because oil from the front valve cover gasket can drip onto the hot exhaust manifold, mostly during hard braking. It can catch fire and spread to the plastic spark plug wire channel. Dealers replace the front valve cover and gasket with an improved design. A

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Free under recalls 09V-116 / 08V-118 / 15V-201 / 15V-701	**Free if covered** OFFICIAL [9] published independent-shop range

first repair was not good enough, so GM recalled the cars again (15V-701).

SYMPTOMS

- Burning oil smell
- Oil on the front exhaust manifold
- Smoke from under the hood after braking

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

An engine compartment fire, even while parked.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Yes. Check the VIN for 08V-118, 09V-116, 15V-201 and 15V-701; GM told owners to park outside until fixed.

No published price outside the recall

No published price
reported range for the bill after a failure

PARTS FOR W-BODY

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Valve cover recall done (and the 15V-701 follow-up)?
- Any burning oil smell?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 3.8L V6 (3800 Series II / III) owner complaints

Every NHTSA complaint theme with 10 or more counted reports is either a weak point above or explained here.

THEME	COMPLAINTS	WHY IT ISN'T A WEAK POINT
Stalling / loss of power	569	Mixed causes: sensors, ignition and fuel faults; not one engine-internal fault.
Engine fire	555	Many describe engine compartment fires on W-body cars covered by the valve cover recalls; others are electrical or unrelated fires.
Transmission	420	Counts every transmission complaint (4T65-E automatic); not an engine fault.

How this report is built

Inputs. VIN, model year, model, mileage and build month (if entered). Model and engine are checked with NHTSA's vPIC decoder.

Mileage positions. Below: more than 10,000 miles before the reported range. Approaching: within 10,000. Inside: in the range, or past the start of an open-ended range. Past: beyond the top of the range. These bands are our rules, not an industry standard.

The plan. Critical items inside or past their range go first; high-severity items follow, and jobs that share labor are bundled. At most three jobs land in “Recommended now”. Leaks that are cheap to watch are fixed on condition; inspections are asked for at each service.

Costs. Published independent-shop ranges from shop quotes, retailer prices and owner reports. Shop prices come from the issuing shop. The worst-case cost of every item failing is not shown: it isn't an expected cost.

Labels. OFFICIAL NHTSA/GM documents · SHOP/RETAILER parts prices and shop articles · FORUM/BLOG owner forums and blogs · COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA our analysis of NHTSA data · OUR ESTIMATE ours.

NHTSA complaint data. Pulled Oct 28, 2026 from NHTSA's complaints API for All 2000–2005 LeSabre and Park Avenue and 2000–2004 Regal complaints; Bonneville, Grand Prix and Lucerne complaints that do not mention a V8; 2005–2009 LaCrosse complaints that do not mention the 3.6L or a V8; and Impala, Monte Carlo, Century, Camaro and Firebird complaints that point to the 3.8L. NHTSA names start at 2000, so 1995–1999 cars are not counted: 6,813 complaints. Some of these nameplates were sold with other engines too. For some we kept only complaints whose text names this engine (which under-counts); for others we left out complaints that name another engine or a hybrid (so a few about other engines can remain). Themes are keyword matches on the complaint text. COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Stalling / loss of power	569	Also reported
Engine fire	555	Also reported
Transmission	420	Also reported
Intake / coolant leak	202	Item 1
Valve cover oil leak / fire	101	Item 3
Fuel pressure regulator / backfire	42	Other years or engine sizes
Coolant elbows	5	Item 2

Limits: complaints are self-reported and not adjusted for cars sold; keyword matching over- and under-counts; owners rarely file safety complaints about oil seeps, so leaks look rarer than they are.

SOURCES

1. NHTSA owner complaints for 2000–2005 LeSabre and Park Avenue, 2000–2004 Regal, 2000–2005 Bonneville (non-V8), 2004–2008 Grand Prix (non-V8), 2006–2008 Lucerne (non-V8), 2005–2009 LaCrosse (3.8L), and Grand Prix, Impala, Monte Carlo, Century, Camaro and Firebird complaints that point to the 3.8L, pulled Oct 28, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. GM Customer Satisfaction Program 03034: Engine coolant may leak at the upper intake manifold throttle body gasket or at the upper-to-lower intake manifold gasket; may cause low coolant and higher engine temperatures (2000–2003 LeSabre, Park Avenue, Regal, Bonneville, Grand Prix) (2003-07-01), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10003430

3. GM Service bulletin 04-06-01-017: New upper intake manifold and gasket kits (2000–2004 LeSabre, Park Avenue, Regal, Bonneville; 2000–2003 Grand Prix) (2004-06-01), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10008471

4. Engine Builder (APRA reprint of a GM bulletin): Abnormal engine coolant consumption, leaks found in some GM 3800 Series II engines (upper intake composite breaks down around the EGR passage; 1995–1999 models), via search extract Oct 27, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://www.enginebuildermag.com/?p=2229

5. Underhood Service: Servicing GM's 3800 V6 engines (OEM lower intake gasket tends to deteriorate after about 60,000 miles; coolant in the crankcase can damage bearings), via search extract Oct 27, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://www.underhoodservice.com/servicing-gm-s-3800-v6-engines/

6. YourMechanic: Buick LeSabre intake manifold gaskets replacement estimates, via search extract Oct 27, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://www.yourmechanic.com/estimates/buick/lesabre/intake-manifold-gaskets-replacement

7. Go-Parts guide: 1999–2005 Buick Regal engine intake manifold gasket set (replace the plastic coolant elbows, upgrade to aluminum, with the intake gaskets), via search extract Oct 27, 2026 FORUM/BLOG
https://www.go-parts.com/garage/ps-1999-2005-buick-regal-engine-intake-manifold-gasket-set

8. Bob Is The Oil Guy forum: Coolant elbows on the 3800 series engine (owner reports of cracked plastic elbows), via search extract Oct 27, 2026 FORUM/BLOG
https://bobistheoilguy.com/forums/threads/coolant-elbows-on-the-3800-series-engine.219222/

9. NHTSA recall records: 08V-118, 09V-116, 15V-201 and 15V-701 (front valve cover gasket oil leak onto the exhaust manifold, fire risk; 1997–2004 Regal, Grand Prix, Impala, Monte Carlo), checked Oct 27, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=09V116000

10. NHTSA recall records: 04V-090 (L36 fuel pressure regulator leak, backfire and fire risk) and 03V-238 (fuel tank pressure sensor, Bonneville SSEi), checked Oct 27, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=04V090000

This report contains no affiliate links; retailer prices are quoted as price sources only. Found an error? Email hello@repairahead.com.

PLEASE READ

Important

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.

Informational only. This report is not a mechanical inspection, a diagnosis, or professional, legal or financial advice. It was issued by Springfield Auto Care using RepairAhead data; the inspection findings and prices are the shop's.

Reported ranges and estimates, not predictions

Failure mileages are reported ranges compiled from public owner complaints, manufacturer bulletins, recalls and repair-shop reports. Costs are estimates. Parts can fail earlier, later or not at all, and other problems can occur. Statistics from owner complaints describe past reports to NHTSA; NHTSA has not reviewed or endorsed this analysis.

Safety issues go to a dealer

If you notice overheating, a burning or fuel smell, smoke, a brake-assist problem, stalling or loss of power, pull over when it's safe and contact a GM dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at GM dealers. Confirm recalls for this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

No warranty

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Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.