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

2012 Chevrolet Equinox at 112,000 mi

2GNALDEK2C1123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Equinox · Equinox LT 2.4 FWD	GM Ecotec four-cylinders: 2.4L (LAF/LEA/LUK), 2.5L (LCV), 1.4L (LUJ/LUV/LE2/LV7) and 1.5L turbo (LFV)	112,000 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 'C' = 2012, 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.

1
inspection recommended now

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

0
to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (2 of 3)

- **16V-502** · Ignition · key and park lock: If the key is removed without the transmission in PARK, the vehicle may rollaway as occupants are exiting, increasing the risk of injury.
- **11V-511** · Tires · pressure monitoring: The tire pressure warning may not work, so underinflated tires can overheat and blow out.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. The full report lists the others. Repairs are free at a Chevrolet dealer if open. Check this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Step 0 · Free: run the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls and ask a Chevrolet dealer for a campaign printout. 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

inspection EXAMPLE

Oil consumption, 2.4L (2010–2013): Inside the range (69,000–120,000 mi, the middle half of 191 owner reports) · if it fails: $1,630–$4,830

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

Next 12 months up to about 124,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 142,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

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

Nothing scheduled here.

Recommended now

$140

Springfield Auto Care prices (example)

Planned through 142,000 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 112,000 mi to 142,000 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 2.4L/2.5L. 2016-on model years were not checked against a GM owner manual (GM does not host them as PDFs); plug and coolant intervals assumed unchanged from 2012-2015.	every 97,500 mi	**Was due at 97,500 mi (check records)** [M3][M4] [M5][M6]	**$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][M8] [M3][M7]	**From $179**
Automatic transmission fluid	every 97,500 mi	**Was due at 97,500 mi (check records)** [M8][M9] [M3][M4][M10]	**$259**

M1. 2010 Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2010_chevrolet_malibu_owners.pdf

M2. 2008 Chevrolet Equinox Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2008_chevrolet_equinox_owners.pdf

M3. 2014 Chevrolet Equinox Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2014_chevrolet_equinox_owners.pdf

M4. 2014 Buick Verano Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/buick/2014_buick_verano_owners.pdf

M5. 2015 Chevrolet Colorado Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2015_chevrolet_colorado_owners.pdf

M6. 2015 Chevrolet Impala Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2015_chevrolet_impala_owners.pdf

M7. 2015 Chevrolet Malibu Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2015_chevrolet_malibu_owners.pdf

M8. 2012 Chevrolet Cruze Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2012_chevrolet_cruze_owners.pdf

M9. 2012 Chevrolet Sonic Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2012_chevrolet_sonic_owners.pdf

M10. 2014 Chevrolet Cruze Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/chevrolet/2014_chevrolet_cruze_owners.pdf

M11. 2015 Buick Regal Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/buick/2015_buick_regal_owners.pdf

M12. 2015 GMC Canyon Owner Manual (Maintenance Schedule) OFFICIAL
https://assets.gm.com/manuals/gmc/2015_gmc_canyon_owners.pdf

WHERE 112K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Oil consumption, 2.4L (2010–2013)	69,000–120,000 mi (middle half of 191 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA	● Inside the range

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 2012 Chevrolet Equinox

Safety recall repairs are free at Chevrolet dealers. 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 2GNALDEK2C1123456.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a Chevrolet dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

ECOTEC 2.4L / 2.5L / 1.4L / 1.5T RECALLS WE TRACK

NHTSA lists no engine-specific recall campaign for the Ecotec 2.4L / 2.5L / 1.4L / 1.5T as of 2026-10-28. Recalls on the rest of the car are in the model-year list below.

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2012 CHEVROLET EQUINOX (3)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
16V-502	Ignition · key and park lock	If the key is removed without the transmission in PARK, the vehicle may rollaway as occupants are exiting, increasing the risk of injury. Details
11V-511	Tires · pressure monitoring	The tire pressure warning may not work, so underinflated tires can overheat and blow out. Details
14V-447	Seats · power height adjuster	The driver's seat can drop suddenly, which can distract the driver and affect control of the vehicle. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-27 and combined across NHTSA model names: EQUINOX. 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

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 1 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 (GMT-172). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: Timing / balance chain stretch, 2.4L; Water pump coolant leak, 1.4L turbo; PCV diaphragm leak in the cam cover, 1.4L turbo; Pre-ignition piston damage, 1.5L turbo (2016–2017 Malibu).

1 Oil consumption, 2.4L (2010–2013)

Inside the range

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 1384 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

At 112,000 mi this car is inside the reported range (69,000–120,000 mi (middle half of 191 owner complaints that state a mileage)), 43,000 miles past where reports start. Range: 69,000–120,000 mi (middle half of 191 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1]



Applies to: 2010–2013 2.4L LAF / LEA (Equinox, Terrain, Captiva, Malibu, LaCrosse, Regal, Verano)

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [2][3][9]

GM found that some 2.4L engines burn too much oil. The dealer runs an oil consumption test and, if the engine fails with no leaks, fits new pistons and rings. GM extended coverage to 10 years or 120,000 miles on 2010 Equinox and Terrain; that window has now closed. A related GM program covers a frozen or plugged PCV system on engines that use a lot of oil.

SYMPTOMS

- Adding oil between changes
- Low oil warning
- Blue smoke or fouled plugs

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Running low on oil can damage the timing chains and the engine.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the oil at every fill-up; ask whether the piston and ring job was done.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only, 12.6–13 h GM warranty time plus pistons and rings	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=138)	**$1,630–$4,830** COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1] reported range for the bill after a failure

Where the numbers come from: Estimate: GM warranty labor time of 12.6–13 h (bulletin [2]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [10]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first. Failed column: Computed from 138 NHTSA owner complaints that quote a repair bill for this problem (middle half of the bills; median $3,000). Examples: ODI 11387836, 11364776, 10940270, 11231107. Owner-reported, often dealer prices; not shop quotes.

PARTS FOR GMT-172

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

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- How much oil between changes?
- Were pistons and rings replaced?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in Ecotec 2.4L / 2.5L / 1.4L / 1.5T 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
Transmission	3,520	Counts every transmission complaint; not an engine fault.
Stalling / loss of power	3,156	Mixed causes across several engines and transmissions; not tied to one 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 Trax, Encore, Spark and eAssist-model complaints; Cruze and Sonic complaints that do not name the 1.8L or diesel; Captiva, Equinox, Terrain and Malibu complaints that do not mention a V6, hybrid or diesel; Verano and Regal complaints that do not name the 2.0L turbo; and LaCrosse, Regal, Impala, Colorado, Canyon, Acadia, Blazer, Envision and ATS complaints that name the four-cylinder (2.4L or 2.5L). Filtered nameplates under-count. The eAssist files for the 2013–2016 LaCrosse, 2012–2016 Regal, 2013–2014 Malibu and 2015 Impala hold every complaint for that nameplate, so only complaints that name eAssist, Eco, hybrid or the four-cylinder are kept; the 2016 "Impala Eco eAssist" file holds 2016 Malibu complaints and is not used: 26,765 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. Several engine families share this profile. Each weak point names the engine and years it applies to. `COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA`

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Transmission	3,520	Also reported
Stalling / loss of power	3,156	Also reported
Oil consumption	1,384	Item 1
Timing / balance chain	708	Other years or engine sizes
Water pump / coolant leak	646	Other years or engine sizes
PCV / cam cover	514	Other years or engine sizes
Piston damage / pre-ignition	29	Other years or engine sizes

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 Cruze, Sonic, Trax, Encore, Spark, Captiva, four-cylinder Equinox/Terrain, Malibu, Impala, Verano, LaCrosse, Regal, Colorado/Canyon, Acadia, Blazer, Envision and ATS (V6, 1.8L, 2.0L turbo, hybrid and diesel left out where named), pulled Oct 28, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. GM Special Coverage 14159D: Excessive oil consumption: piston and ring replacement, 2010 Equinox and Terrain with the 2.4L (LAF), 10 years / 120,000 miles (2017-04-28), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2017/MC-10118904-9999.pdf

3. GM Service bulletin 13-06-01-003E: Excessive oil consumption: oil consumption test and new pistons and rings (2010–2013 2.4L LAF/LEA) (2014-03-26), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2014/MC-10137882-9999.pdf

4. GM Special Coverage 12313D: Timing (balance) chain wear: chrome layer on chain pins may wear, 2010–2011 2.4L LAF, 10 years / 120,000 miles (2017-06-06), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2017/MC-10158886-9999.pdf

5. GM Special Coverage 14371B: Engine coolant leak from the water pump, 2011–2014 Cruze and 2012–2014 Sonic 1.4L (LUJ/LUV), 10 years / 150,000 miles (2015-01-27), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2015/SB-10079524-0335.pdf

6. GM Special Coverage N202299080: PCV valve diaphragm leak: replace camshaft cover, 2011–2014 Cruze, 2012–2014 Sonic, 2014 Encore and Trax 1.4L, 10 years / 120,000 miles (2020-07-28), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2020/MC-10178406-9999.pdf

7. GM Special Coverage N192210230: PCV valve diaphragm cracks, 2015–2016 Cruze and 2015 Sonic 1.4L, 10 years / 120,000 miles (2019-07-09), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2019/MC-10163845-9999.pdf

8. GM Customer Satisfaction Program 17019: Pre-ignition may damage pistons, 2016–2017 Malibu 1.5L (LFV): oil change to dexos1 full synthetic and engine reprogramming (2017-07-17), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2017/MC-10156967-9999.pdf

9. GM Special Coverage 14882: Frozen or plugged PCV system on 2.4L engines (LAF, LEA, LUK) with high oil consumption (2015-03-04), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2015/SB-10090101-2280.pdf

10. Tekmetric: average auto repair labor rates by state, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://tours.tekmetric.com/answers/average-auto-repair-labor-rates-by-state-2026

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 Chevrolet dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at Chevrolet dealers. Confirm recalls for this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

No warranty

Provided “as is”, without warranties of any kind, under the Terms of Use at repairahead.com/terms.

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