2005 Nissan Sentra at 142,000 mi

3N1CB51D25L512345

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Sentra · B15 Sentra 1.8 S sedan	Nissan QG18DE 1.8L four (2000–2006 Sentra)	142,000 mi	FWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 28, 2026	Owner	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code '5' = 2005, 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: a qualified technician decides what the car actually needs.

0	0	3
jobs recommended now	to plan in the next 30,000 miles · plus 2 factory maintenance items	to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (4)

- **20V-747** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: Some cars had their passenger air bag inspected earlier but the Takata inflator was not replaced. The inflator can explode in a crash and throw metal fragments at the occupants. Dealers replace the inflator.
- **20V-008** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: The passenger air bag uses a Takata inflator without a drying agent that can degrade with heat and humidity and explode in a crash, throwing metal fragments. Dealers replace the inflator.
- **15V-287** · Air bags: The passenger frontal air bag inflator can rupture when it deploys and throw metal fragments at the occupants. Dealers replace the inflator.
- **05V-269** · Fuel system, gasoline · storage: A vapor hose in the fuel tank may be formed wrongly, so when the car is parked with a full tank fuel can flow into the vapor canister and spill onto the ground, a fire risk. Dealers replace the hose.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. Repairs are free at a Nissan 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 Nissan dealer for a campaign printout. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service

Good news: nothing on the 1.8L QG18DE watch list is due at this mileage. Worth a fresh look at about 152,000 mi.

Next 12 months up to about 150,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 172,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

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

Crank / cam position sensors: stalling and no-start (recalls) — **$254–$482** (independent shop, installed)
Any mileage (2000–2003 Sentra 1.8 under recalls 01V-357 and 03V-455; owners report it on later cars too) · Ask for this check at every service

Catalytic converter breakup, P0420 and oil burning — **No published price**
Any mileage (Mostly 2001–2003 Sentra (owner reports); catalyst campaign on certain 2003–2004 cars) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Long crank or no start when cold — **No published price**
Any mileage (2002–2006 Sentra) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Recommended now

No repairs due now

Independent shop, installed. Dealers often charge more.

Planned through 172,000 mi

No repairs planned

Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles. Excludes factory maintenance (listed separately), “watch” and optional items.

Costs are published independent-shop ranges (low end + low end, high end + high end). 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 142,000 mi to 172,000 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
Spark plugs Iridium/platinum plugs; replace early if gap exceeds spec.	every 105,000 mi	**Was due at 105,000 mi (check records)** [M1][M2]
Engine coolant First change at 60,000 mi or 48 months, then every 30,000 mi or 24 months.	first at 60,000 mi, then every 30,000 mi or 2 years	**Was due at 120,000 mi and by age (check records)** [M1] [M2]
Automatic transmission fluid Nissan normal schedule says inspect only; replace every 30,000 mi / 24 months only under severe use (towing, rough or muddy roads).	no fixed interval	— [M1][M2]

M1. 2000 Nissan Sentra Owner's Manual, Maintenance section (Schedule 2) OFFICIAL
https://archive.org/details/manualzilla-id-6029278

M2. Nissan USA official maintenance schedule lookup: 2004 Sentra (component pages, Standard Driving Conditions) OFFICIAL
https://maintenance-schedules.nissanusa.com/maintenance-schedules/2004/sentra/components/engine-coolant/

WHERE 142K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Crank / cam position sensors: stalling and no-start (recalls)	2000–2003 Sentra 1.8 under recalls 01V-357 and 03V-455; owners report it on later cars too OFFICIAL	Any mileage
2	Catalytic converter breakup, P0420 and oil burning	Mostly 2001–2003 Sentra (owner reports); catalyst campaign on certain 2003–2004 cars OFFICIAL	Any mileage
3	Long crank or no start when cold	2002–2006 Sentra 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 2005 Nissan Sentra

Safety recall repairs are free at Nissan 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 3N1CB51D25L512345.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a Nissan dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

1.8L QG18DE RECALLS WE TRACK

01V-357 · Defective crank position sensor; engine may stop (2000–2001 Sentra 1.8)

Not listed for MY2005

The engine can stop while driving. Free crank sensor replacement. OFFICIAL [2]

03V-455 · Crank or cam position sensor solder joint can fail; engine may stop (2000–2003)

Not listed for MY2005

No start, reduced power or the engine stopping. Free sensor replacement, including sensors fitted under 01V-357. OFFICIAL [3]

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2005 NISSAN SENTRA (4)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
20V-747	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	Some cars had their passenger air bag inspected earlier but the Takata inflator was not replaced. The inflator can explode in a crash and throw metal fragments at the occupants. Dealers replace the inflator. Details
20V-008	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	The passenger air bag uses a Takata inflator without a drying agent that can degrade with heat and humidity and explode in a crash, throwing metal fragments. Dealers replace the inflator. Details
15V-287	Air bags	The passenger frontal air bag inflator can rupture when it deploys and throw metal fragments at the occupants. Dealers replace the inflator. Details
05V-269	Fuel system, gasoline · storage	A vapor hose in the fuel tank may be formed wrongly, so when the car is parked with a full tank fuel can flow into the vapor canister and spill onto the ground, a fire risk. Dealers replace the hose. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-28 and combined across NHTSA model names: SENTRA. 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 (SENTRA): 07V-527 covers only 2.5L Sentras and 22E-066 covers replacement air bag inflator service parts fitted after a theft or collision repair, so both are left out of this 1.8 sample; a VIN check would show them if they applied.

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 (B15). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: ECM box lining gives off sulfur: rough idle or stalling (recall 03V-477); Plastic oil dipstick handle breaks off in the tube (owner reports).

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1 Crank / cam position sensors: stalling and no-start (recalls)

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 314 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2000–2003 Sentra 1.8 under recalls 01V-357 and 03V-455; owners report it on later cars too), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2000–2003 Sentra 1.8 under recalls 01V-357 and 03V-455; owners report it on later cars too OFFICIAL [2][3]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [2][3]

The crankshaft or camshaft position sensor can lose its signal, so the engine stalls without warning, loses power or will not restart until it cools down. Nissan replaced the crank sensors on 2000–2001 Sentra 1.8s (01V-357), then recalled 2000–2003 cars again because a solder joint on the sensor board could crack, including the sensors fitted in the first recall (03V-455). Owners of 2004–2006 cars outside the recalls report the same symptoms.

SYMPTOMS

- Engine stalls while driving, often when hot
- Will not restart until it cools down
- Check-engine light with P0335 or P0340

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Stalling in traffic can cause a crash.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the VIN for both recalls; replace a failing sensor with a Nissan part.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=7)	**$254–$482** COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1] independent shop, installed
Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=7)	**$254–$482** COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

Where the numbers come from: Computed from 7 NHTSA owner complaints that quote a bill for crank and/or cam sensor replacement (middle half of the bills; median $300). Examples: ODI 765369, 10275617, 10566294, 10240333. Owner-reported, often dealer prices; not shop quotes. Free if a recall is still open.

PARTS FOR B15

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any stalling or hot no-starts?
- Recalls 01V-357 / 03V-455 done?

2 Catalytic converter breakup, P0420 and oil burning

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 45 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Mostly 2001–2003 Sentra (owner reports); catalyst campaign on certain 2003–2004 cars), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Mostly 2001–2003 Sentra (owner reports); catalyst campaign on certain 2003–2004 cars OFFICIAL [1][8]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [1][8]

Owners and dealers quoted in the complaints describe the manifold catalytic converter breaking up, setting P0420 or clogging, and in some cars the ceramic debris was drawn back into the cylinders, scoring them so the engine burned oil or failed. Nissan ran a catalyst / front-tube replacement campaign on certain 2003–2004 Sentras and an ECM reprogram emissions campaign on 2003–2005 cars (both cited from NHTSA's one-line summaries).

SYMPTOMS

- Check-engine light with P0420
- Rattle from the exhaust manifold
- Oil use rising, blue smoke or knocking

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Catalyst debris in the cylinders can ruin the engine.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the VIN for the catalyst and ECM campaigns; replace a rattling or clogged pre-catalyst before it breaks up further.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

No published price	**No published price** independent shop, installed
Catalytic converter replacement, 2005 Sentra (RepairPal)	**$3,214–$3,328** SHOP/RETAILER [10] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

Where the numbers come from: RepairPal estimate for an OE-type converter on a 2005 Sentra; aftermarket converters are cheaper where emissions rules allow. Engine damage from debris costs far more.

PARTS FOR B15

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any catalyst codes or rattles?
- Oil use between changes?
- Converter or engine replaced?

3 Long crank or no start when cold

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 16 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2002–2006 Sentra), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2002–2006 Sentra OFFICIAL [5][6][7]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [5][6][7]

Nissan issued several bulletins for 2002–2006 Sentras that crank longer than three seconds before starting, crank but do not start after sitting overnight in the cold, or idle roughly below freezing.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

No published price	**No published price** independent shop, installed

SYMPTOMS

- Cranks for several seconds before it starts
- No start after a cold night
- Rough or hunting idle when cold

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Repeated long cranking wears the starter and battery.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the battery and fuel pressure hold first, then the ECM software against the bulletins.

No published price	**No published price** reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

PARTS FOR B15

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Does it crank long before starting?
- Any no-starts in cold weather?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 1.8L QG18DE 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
Air bags	170	Air bag complaints, including Takata inflator recalls; not engine faults.
Brakes	131	Brake complaints; not engine faults.
Steering / suspension	70	Steering and suspension complaints (control arm bolt and ball joint bracket recalls 01V-174, 03V-511); not engine faults.
Engine fire / smoke	66	Mostly smoke from oil burning or a hot catalyst; covered under the catalyst item.
Automatic transmission	59	Transmission complaints are spread across shifting faults; no single bulletin pattern on this engine.

6 · BUYING OR SELLING

Used-car checklist and resale helper

For owners this is a resale checklist: it's what a careful buyer will ask.

Ask the inspecting shop to check

- Stalling or hot no-starts on the test drive
- Manifold catalyst rattle and P0420
- Oil level and use
- Open recalls by VIN

Ask the seller

- Recalls 01V-357 / 03V-455 / 03V-477 done?
- Oil use between changes?
- Catalytic converter replaced?

Documents to request

- Dealer service-history printout for the VIN
- nhtsa.gov/recalls screenshot

WHAT A BUYER MAY DEDUCT

FINDING	ESTIMATED ADJUSTMENT
Crank / cam position sensors: stalling and no-start (recalls): fault found on inspection	$254–$482
Catalytic converter breakup, P0420 and oil burning: symptoms or fault codes present	No published price
Long crank or no start when cold: symptoms or fault codes present	No published price
Pre-ticked rows (●), if no records clear them	**None at this mileage**

● = expected at this mileage. Estimated repair costs, not an appraisal. Recalls cost the seller nothing: ask for open recalls to be completed rather than discounted. OUR ESTIMATE

7 · METHOD AND SOURCES

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. The worst-case cost of every item failing is not shown: it isn't an expected cost.

Labels. OFFICIAL NHTSA/Nissan 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 2000–2006 Sentra complaints that do not name the 2.5L, SE-R, Spec V or 2.0L SR20. Sentra complaints that name no engine can include some 2.5 and 2.0 cars: 1,318 complaints. Some of these nameplates were sold with other engines too; for those we left out complaints whose text names another engine or a hybrid, so a few complaints about other engines can remain. Themes are keyword matches on the complaint text. COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Stalling / crank or cam sensor	314	Item 1
Air bags	170	Also reported
Brakes	131	Also reported
ECM / engine computer	99	Other years or engine sizes
Steering / suspension	70	Also reported
Engine fire / smoke	66	Also reported
Oil dipstick	60	Other years or engine sizes
Automatic transmission	59	Also reported
Catalytic converter / oil burning	45	Item 2
Hard start	16	Item 3

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 2000–2006 Sentra that do not name the 2.5L, SE-R, Spec V or the 2.0L SR20, pulled Oct 28, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. NHTSA recall records: 01V-357 (2000–2001 Sentra 1.8L: defective crank position sensor can stop the engine while driving; sensors replaced), checked Oct 28, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=01V357000

3. NHTSA recall records: 03V-455 (2000–2003 Sentra and other Nissans: crank or cam position sensor circuit board solder joint can fail; no start, reduced power or the engine stopping; sensors replaced, including those fitted under 01V-357), checked Oct 28, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=03V455000

4. NHTSA recall records: 03V-477 (2000–2003 Sentra with the QG18DE (and QR25DE): foam lining in the ECM box gives off sulfur that can corrode a resistor in the ECM; MIL, rough idle, poor acceleration or stalling; lining removed), checked Oct 28, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=03V477000

5. Nissan NTB05-052C: 2002–2006 Sentra: engine cranks longer than 3 seconds before starting (2010-10-01; NHTSA summary only), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10039804

6. Nissan NTB04-004A: 2002–2004 Sentra and Altima: after a cold soak the engine cranks but does not start (2004-05-26; NHTSA summary only), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10005677

7. Nissan NTB02-113: 2002 Sentra: hard or no start, fluctuating or rough idle below freezing (2002-10-29; NHTSA summary only), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10000205

8. Nissan campaign 0501: voluntary recall campaign, catalytic converter / front tube replacement, certain 2003–2004 Sentra (2005-12-07; NHTSA summary only, engine not stated), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10018243

9. Nissan NTB08-023: voluntary emissions recall campaign, ECM reprogramming, 2003–2005 Sentra and 2005–2006 Frontier (2009-12-18; NHTSA summary only), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10024146

10. RepairPal: Nissan Sentra catalytic converter replacement cost (2005 Sentra $3,214–$3,328; 2002 $2,662–$3,133), checked Oct 28, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://repairpal.com/estimator/nissan/sentra/catalytic-converter-replacement-cost

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. Nobody from RepairAhead has seen, driven or inspected this vehicle.

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 Nissan dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at Nissan 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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Wrong input (VIN, mileage, build date)? Email hello@repairahead.com with report ID RA-QG18-512345-20261028 and we'll correct and reissue it.

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.