2002 Subaru Impreza WRX at 148,000 mi

JF1GD29692G512345

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Impreza WRX · GD Impreza WRX 2.0 turbo sedan, 5-speed manual	Subaru EJ205 2.0L turbo flat-four (2002–2005 Impreza WRX)	148,000 mi	AWD
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 '2' = 2002, 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.

1 job recommended now

0 to plan in the next 30,000 miles

3 to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (2 of 4)

- **09V-468** · Fuel system, gasoline · delivery · fuel pump: On cold starts the fuel line under the intake manifold can leak. Leaking fuel near a hot engine part can start a fire. Covers cars sold or registered in 16 cold-weather states.
- **11V-464** · Suspension · front · control arm: In 21 salt-belt states and DC the front lower control arms can rust through and break, which can cause loss of control and a crash. Dealers inspect the arms and rustproof or replace them free.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. The full report lists the others. Repairs are free at a Subaru 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 Subaru dealer for a campaign printout, including 09V-468. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service

Fuel line and hose under the intake manifold leak on cold starts (recall 09V-468) Free if open

Recall 09V-468 is listed for this model year. Check the VIN; the repair is free at a Subaru dealer if it is open.

Next 12 months up to about 154,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 178,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

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

Clutch judder, sticking pedal and release bearing (manual cars) — **No published price**
Any mileage (2002–2005 WRX with manual transmission) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

5-speed manual gearbox: grinding into first, bearing wear and whine — **No published price**
Any mileage (2002–2005 WRX with 5MT) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Oil seepage at the oil filler tube O-ring — **$20–$32**
labor only, parts extra
Any mileage (2002–2014 WRX with EJ engines) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Recommended now

Free recall check

Independent shop, installed. Dealers often charge more.

Planned through 178,000 mi

Free recall check

Nothing else on the list before 178,000 mi. Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles. Excludes “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

The maker's maintenance schedule isn't on this report

This report doesn't include the maker's scheduled maintenance for this car yet, so brake fluid, spark plugs, coolant and transmission fluid aren't listed even when they're due. Check the service records and the maker's schedule for this car.

WHERE 148K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Fuel line and hose under the intake manifold leak on cold starts (recall 09V-468)	2002–2003 WRX (recall in 16 cold states; extended warranty elsewhere has expired); owners report 2004–2005 too OFFICIAL	Any mileage
2	Clutch judder, sticking pedal and release bearing (manual cars)	2002–2005 WRX with manual transmission OFFICIAL	Any mileage
3	5-speed manual gearbox: grinding into first, bearing wear and whine	2002–2005 WRX with 5MT OFFICIAL	Any mileage
4	Oil seepage at the oil filler tube O-ring	2002–2014 WRX with EJ engines 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 2002 Subaru Impreza WRX

Safety recall repairs are free at Subaru 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 JF1GD29692G512345.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a Subaru dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

2.0L EJ205 TURBO FLAT-FOUR RECALLS WE TRACK

09V-468 · Fuel delivery line can leak on cold starts (2002–2003 WRX, 16 cold-weather states)

NHTSA lists this model and year: check by VIN

Dealers replace the engine fuel line and hose free. Cars in the other 34 states had a 12-year extended warranty instead, now expired. OFFICIAL [2]

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

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2002 SUBARU IMPREZA WRX (4)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
09V-468 2.0L EJ205 turbo flat-four tracked	Fuel system, gasoline · delivery · fuel pump	On cold starts the fuel line under the intake manifold can leak. Leaking fuel near a hot engine part can start a fire. Covers cars sold or registered in 16 cold-weather states. Details
11V-464	Suspension · front · control arm	In 21 salt-belt states and DC the front lower control arms can rust through and break, which can cause loss of control and a crash. Dealers inspect the arms and rustproof or replace them free. Details
04V-342	Seats	The front left bolt holding the driver seat to its slide rail can loosen and fall out, so the seat can move in a crash and the driver can be hurt worse. Details
04V-128	Vehicle speed control · cables	The cruise control cable can jump out of its track and hold the throttle open when the driver lifts off the pedal. That can cause loss of control and a crash. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-28 and combined across NHTSA model names: WRX, IMPREZA. 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 (IMPREZA): Left out: 08V-135 (rear gate stay bolts on Impreza wagons; the sample is a sedan), 06E-060 (aftermarket replacement lamps, not factory equipment) and 02V-282 (automatic transmission parking rod; the sample has a manual gearbox).

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 4 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 (GD).

1 Fuel line and hose under the intake manifold leak on cold starts (recall 09V-468)

Any mileage

Severity: Critical: rare, but can badly damage the engine · 407 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2002–2003 WRX (recall in 16 cold states; extended warranty elsewhere has expired); owners report 2004–2005 too), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2002–2003 WRX (recall in 16 cold states; extended warranty elsewhere has expired); owners report 2004–2005 too OFFICIAL [2][3]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [2][3][4][1]

On the 2002–2003 WRX the steel fuel delivery line and its rubber hose under the intake manifold shrink at different rates in the cold, so fuel seeps out at the joint on cold starts. Owners smell raw fuel in the cabin and find fuel pooling on the engine near the turbo. It is by far the most-reported problem in NHTSA complaints for these cars. Subaru recalled cars sold or registered in 16 cold-weather states (campaign WVK-21) and gave a 12-year, unlimited-mileage extended warranty in the other 34 states, which has now run out. Some 2004–2005 owners report the same leak.

SYMPTOMS

- Strong raw-fuel smell, worst on cold mornings
- Wet fuel on top of the engine under the intake manifold
- Smell fades once the engine warms up

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Fuel leaking near the turbo and exhaust can start an engine fire.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the VIN for recall 09V-468; if it does not apply, have the updated fuel line and hose fitted before winter.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only	**$240–$384** OUR ESTIMATE [3][9] labor only, parts extra
Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=22)	**$406–$650** 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: Early: ESTIMATE from the 2.4 h labor time in Subaru bulletin 01-170-09 times $100–160/h independent labor ($240–384), plus the updated fuel line. Fail: computed from 22 NHTSA owner complaints that quote a dealer bill or quote for the fuel line repair (middle half; median $500; e.g. ODI 10110248, 10144567, 10055085, 10182414). Owner-reported, often dealer prices; not shop quotes. Free if recall 09V-468 applies and was never done.

PARTS FOR GD

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Recall 09V-468 or the 01-170-09 fuel line repair done? Ask for the record.
- Any fuel smell on cold mornings?

2 Clutch judder, sticking pedal and release bearing (manual cars)

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 17 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2002–2005 WRX with manual transmission), so mileage doesn't say much here.

Range: 2002–2005 WRX with manual transmission OFFICIAL [5][6]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [5][6][1]

NHTSA owner complaints on the 2002 WRX describe clutch judder (violent shaking when pulling away in first, mostly cold), a clutch pedal that sticks to the floor and hard shifts. Subaru issued a bulletin for a sticking clutch pedal on 2002–2003 cars, and later changed the release (throw-out) bearing because its grease can break down and the bearing seize if the pedal is held down for long periods.

SYMPTOMS

- Shudder or judder pulling away in first gear
- Clutch pedal soft or sticking down
- Whine or squeal with the pedal pressed

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A seized release bearing can damage the clutch and fork; a pedal that sticks makes the car hard to control in traffic.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Do not rest a foot on the clutch; when the clutch is replaced, fit the updated release bearing.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

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

Where the numbers come from: Too few NHTSA complaints quote a clutch bill to compute a cost.

PARTS FOR GD

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Clutch replaced? When, and with which release bearing?
- Any judder or pedal sticking?

3 5-speed manual gearbox: grinding into first, bearing wear and whine

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 17 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2002–2005 WRX with 5MT), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2002–2005 WRX with 5MT OFFICIAL [7]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [7][1]

Owners of 2002–2003 WRXs report grinding or refusal to go into first gear, hard 1–2 and 3–2 shifts and whine, and a few report gearbox failures. Subaru released revised transfer driven gear bearings for its 5-speed manuals, WRX included, to improve durability.

SYMPTOMS

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

No published price	**No published price** independent shop, installed
No published price	**No published price** reported range for the bill after a failure

- Grinding or blocking going into first
- Whine that changes with road speed
- Popping out of gear

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A worn gearbox ends in a rebuild or replacement.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the gear oil and listen for bearing whine on the test drive; repair before a bearing fails.

Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

Where the numbers come from: Too few NHTSA complaints quote a gearbox bill to compute a cost.

PARTS FOR GD

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Gearbox rebuilt or replaced? Gear oil changed?
- Any grinding or whine?

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4 Oil seepage at the oil filler tube O-ring

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 2 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2002–2014 WRX with EJ engines), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2002–2014 WRX with EJ engines OFFICIAL [8]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [8]

Subaru released a more heat-resistant oil filler tube O-ring because the original one lets oil seep and collect along the bottom of the rocker cover. It is a small, cheap repair but is often mistaken for a valve cover gasket leak.

SYMPTOMS

- Oily film along the bottom of the rocker cover near the filler tube
- Burning-oil smell after a drive

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Seeping oil collects on hot parts and can smell or smoke.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Replace the O-ring with the updated part when you see seepage; it is single-use.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only	**$20–$32** OUR ESTIMATE [8][9] labor only, parts extra
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

Where the numbers come from: ESTIMATE: Subaru bulletin 02-172-18R lists 0.2 h to replace the oil filler tube O-ring, times $100–160/h independent labor ($20–32), plus the O-ring.

PARTS FOR GD

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any oil leaks fixed? Which seals?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 2.0L EJ205 turbo flat-four 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
Brakes / ABS	131	Many 2002–2003 complaints of ABS engaging on bumpy roads and long stops; not an engine fault.
Turbo / engine failure	35	A few turbo and engine-failure complaints with no bulletin or recall pattern; most turbo mentions are fuel leaking near the turbo, covered under the fuel line item.
Suspension rust	16	Front lower control arm corrosion in salt-belt states (recall 11V-464); not an engine fault.
Air bags	15	Air bag complaints; not engine faults.

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

- Cold start: smell for fuel and look under the intake manifold
- Clutch take-up and gearbox shifts, cold and warm
- Signs of aftermarket tuning (boost controller, ECU reflash, intake, exhaust)
- Open recalls by VIN

Ask the seller

- Recall 09V-468 or fuel line repair done?
- Timing belt last replaced when?
- Clutch or gearbox ever replaced?
- Ever tuned or modified?

Documents to request

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

WHAT A BUYER MAY DEDUCT

FINDING	ESTIMATED ADJUSTMENT
Fuel line and hose under the intake manifold leak on cold starts (recall 09V-468): fault found on inspection	$406–$650
Clutch judder, sticking pedal and release bearing (manual cars): symptoms or fault codes present	No published price
5-speed manual gearbox: grinding into first, bearing wear and whine: symptoms or fault codes present	No published price
Oil seepage at the oil filler tube O-ring: seeping or leaking	$20–$32 + parts
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/Subaru 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 2002–2005 WRX complaints (NHTSA model WRX) that do not name the STI or a 2.5 engine, plus 2002–2005 Impreza complaints that name the WRX or a 2.0 turbo. 2005 Saab 9-2X complaints that name the Aero, a turbo or the 2.0. Impreza and 9-2X complaints that do not say which engine are left out, so the counts under-count: 665 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
Fuel leak / fuel smell	407	Item 1
Brakes / ABS	131	Also reported
Turbo / engine failure	35	Also reported
Clutch	17	Item 2
Manual gearbox	17	Item 3
Suspension rust	16	Also reported
Air bags	15	Also reported
Oil seepage	2	Item 4

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 2002–2005 Subaru Impreza WRX (non-STI) and 2005 Saab 9-2X Aero, pulled Oct 28, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. NHTSA recall records: 09V-468 (2002–2003 Impreza WRX sold or registered in 16 cold-weather states: fuel delivery line can leak on cold starts), checked Oct 28, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=09V468000

3. Subaru service bulletin 01-170-09 and recall bulletin WVK-21: 2002–2003 Impreza WRX engine fuel line and hose under the intake manifold; extended warranty of 12 years / unlimited miles in the other 34 states; labor 2.4 h (2009-12-15), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/rcl/2009/RCSB-09V468-1307.pdf

4. Subaru service bulletin 09-36-03R: 2002 Impreza WRX fuel smell in cold weather (2003-04-01, revised 2013-02-19; replaced by 01-170-09), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2013/MC-10232867-9999.pdf

5. Subaru service information bulletin 03-82-18R: clutch release (throw-out) bearing design change, includes 2002–2005 WRX; bearing grease can break down and the bearing seize if the clutch pedal is held down for long periods (2018-10-26, revised 2021-01-12), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2021/MC-10186364-0001.pdf

6. Subaru bulletin 03-52-03: 2002–2003 Impreza clutch pedal sticking (2003-05-19; NHTSA summary only), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10001726

7. Subaru service bulletin 03-68-12R: 5MT transfer driven gear bearings, revised bearings for durability, includes Impreza WRX with 5MT (2012-07-16, revised 2012-12-11), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2012/MC-10234258-9999.pdf

8. Subaru service bulletin 02-172-18R: new oil filler tube O-ring for engine oil seepage at the rocker cover, 2002–2014 WRX with EJ engines; labor 0.2 h (2018-02-06), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2018/MC-10140479-9999.pdf

9. Tekmetric: average auto repair labor rates by state, 2026 (national average $132/h; state averages $85–$197/h). We use $100–$160/h for independent-shop estimates SHOP/RETAILER
https://tours.tekmetric.com/answers/average-auto-repair-labor-rates-by-state-2026

10. fueleconomy.gov: Saab 9-2X engines (2005: 2.0L turbo Aero, 2.5L Linear; 2006: 2.5L turbo Aero, 2.5L), checked Oct 28, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/bymodel/2005_Saab_9-2x.shtml

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

No warranty

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Wrong input (VIN, mileage, build date)? Email hello@repairahead.com with report ID RA-EJ205-512345-20261028 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.