2012 Subaru Outback at 108,000 mi

4S4BRDKC7C2123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Outback · BR Outback 3.6R Limited wagon	Subaru EZ36 3.6L flat-six	108,000 mi	AWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 27, 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.

0	0	4
jobs recommended now	to plan in the next 30,000 miles	to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (15)

- **20V-003** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **20V-002** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **20V-001** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **19V-297** · Electrical · replacement ignition switch: A replacement mechanical-key ignition switch can turn the engine off while driving.
- **19V-009** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **19V-008** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **19V-007** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **18V-012** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **17V-014** · Air bags · frontal · passenger side: An inflator rupture may result in metal fragments striking the vehicle occupants resulting in serious injury or death.
- **16V-694** · Wipers · motor: The wiper motor can overheat and stop the wipers, and its cover can melt, a fire risk.
- **13V-078** · Wipers · motor cover: Parts in the wiper motor cover can overheat, melt and possibly catch fire.
- **13V-077** · Moonroof glass: The moonroof glass can come loose and fall off while driving.
- **13V-061** · Remote engine starter accessory: Cars with the Audiovox remote starter accessory may start and run on their own for up to 15 minutes.
- **12V-047** · Air bags · side curtain: The side curtain air bags may not inflate properly in a crash.
- **11V-562** · Brakes · master cylinder: The brake master cylinder can malfunction, so the pedal travels farther and stopping distance grows.

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

Recommended now at the next service

Good news: nothing on the 3.6L EZ36 flat-six watch list is due at this mileage. Worth a fresh look at about 118,000 mi.

Next 12 months up to about 120,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 138,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

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

Water pump gasket coolant leak — **$380**
Any mileage (2008–2014 Tribeca and 2010–2019 Outback / Legacy 3.6R) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign
our price EXAMPLE

P0128 coolant temperature code (heater hose pipe) — **$340**
Any mileage (2011–2012 Outback, Legacy and Tribeca H-6) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign
our price EXAMPLE

5-speed automatic: valve body contamination, parking rod recall — **$220**
Any mileage (2010–2013 Legacy, Outback and Tribeca with the 5AT; recall 13V-336 for 2013 Tribeca and 2014 3.6R) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign
our price EXAMPLE

Oil pressure switch (false oil light) — **$200**
Any mileage (All EZ36 models built before mid-2015) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign
our price EXAMPLE

Recommended now

No repairs due now

Springfield Auto Care prices (example)

Planned through 138,000 mi

No repairs planned

Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles. 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

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 108K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Water pump gasket coolant leak	2008–2014 Tribeca and 2010–2019 Outback / Legacy 3.6R OFFICIAL	Any mileage
2	P0128 coolant temperature code (heater hose pipe)	2011–2012 Outback, Legacy and Tribeca H-6 OFFICIAL	Any mileage
3	5-speed automatic: valve body contamination, parking rod recall	2010–2013 Legacy, Outback and Tribeca with the 5AT; recall 13V-336 for 2013 Tribeca and 2014 3.6R OFFICIAL	Any mileage
4	Oil pressure switch (false oil light)	All EZ36 models built before mid-2015 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 2012 Subaru Outback

Safety recall repairs are free at Subaru 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 4S4BRDKC7C2123456.
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.

3.6L EZ36 FLAT-SIX RECALLS WE TRACK

13V-336 · Parking rod may come loose in the 5-speed automatic (2013 Tribeca, 2014 Legacy / Outback 3.6R)

Not listed for MY2012

The parking rod can come loose, so the car may roll in Park. Free inspection and repair. OFFICIAL [5]

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2012 SUBARU OUTBACK (15)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
20V-003	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
20V-002	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
20V-001	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
19V-297	Electrical · replacement ignition switch	A replacement mechanical-key ignition switch can turn the engine off while driving. Details
19V-009	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
19V-008	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
19V-007	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
18V-012	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An explosion of an inflator within the passenger frontal air bag module may result in sharp metal fragments striking the front seat passenger, driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
17V-014	Air bags · frontal · passenger side	An inflator rupture may result in metal fragments striking the vehicle occupants resulting in serious injury or death. Details
16V-694	Wipers · motor	The wiper motor can overheat and stop the wipers, and its cover can melt, a fire risk. Details
13V-078	Wipers · motor cover	Parts in the wiper motor cover can overheat, melt and possibly catch fire. Details
13V-077	Moonroof glass	The moonroof glass can come loose and fall off while driving. Details
13V-061	Remote engine starter accessory	Cars with the Audiovox remote starter accessory may start and run on their own for up to 15 minutes. Details
12V-047	Air bags · side curtain	The side curtain air bags may not inflate properly in a crash. Details
11V-562	Brakes · master cylinder	The brake master cylinder can malfunction, so the pedal travels farther and stopping distance grows. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-27 and combined across NHTSA model names: OUTBACK. 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 (OUTBACK): 18V-626 (electronic parking brake) covers manual-transmission Outbacks only and is left out of this 3.6R automatic sample. The Takata inflator recalls (17V-014, 18V-012, 19V-007/008/009, 20V-001/002/003) are split by state; a VIN check shows which one 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 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 (BR).

1 Water pump gasket coolant leak

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 2 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2008–2014 Tribeca and 2010–2019 Outback / Legacy 3.6R), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2008–2014 Tribeca and 2010–2019 Outback / Legacy 3.6R OFFICIAL [2]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [2]

The water pump gasket can deteriorate early and leak coolant. Subaru deleted an adhesive from the pump-to-gasket face to stop this, and replaces the pump when a leak is confirmed at the pump area.

SYMPTOMS

- Coolant level dropping
- Coolant crust at the front of the engine
- Sweet smell
- Temperature creeping up

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A leaking pump can let the engine overheat.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Replace the pump when it starts to seep; check the front chain cover sealer at the same time.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only, 1–1.2 h Subaru warranty time plus the pump	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Water pump replacement, 2008–2014 Tribeca (KBB, one ZIP code)	**$751–$847** SHOP/RETAILER [8] reported range for the bill after a failure

Where the numbers come from: Early: Estimate: Subaru warranty labor time of 1–1.2 h (bulletin [2]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [7]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first. If the front chain cover sealer also leaks, Subaru allows 3.1–3.4 h more [2].

PARTS FOR BR

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

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Topping up coolant?
- Water pump replaced?

2 P0128 coolant temperature code (heater hose pipe)

Any mileage

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

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2011–2012 Outback, Legacy and Tribeca H-6), so mileage doesn't say much here.

Range: 2011–2012 Outback, Legacy and Tribeca H-6 OFFICIAL [3]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [3]

P0128 (coolant below thermostat temperature) can set from a small temperature difference between the left and right cylinder banks, or from an air pocket. Subaru fits a heater hose pipe with an orifice that steadies coolant flow past the temperature sensor.

SYMPTOMS

- Check-engine light with P0128
- Slow warm-up
- Weak heat in winter

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Mostly an emissions code; it fails inspection.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Fit the revised pipe and bleed the system properly.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only, 2 h Subaru warranty time plus the heater hose pipe	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Labor only, 2 h Subaru warranty time plus the heater hose pipe	**$200–$320** OUR ESTIMATE [3][7] labor only, parts extra

Where the numbers come from: Estimate: Subaru warranty labor time of 2 h (bulletin [3]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [7]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first.

PARTS FOR BR

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

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Any P0128?

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3 5-speed automatic: valve body contamination, parking rod recall

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 19 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2010–2013 Legacy, Outback and Tribeca with the 5AT; recall 13V-336 for 2013 Tribeca and 2014 3.6R), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2010–2013 Legacy, Outback and Tribeca with the 5AT; recall 13V-336 for 2013 Tribeca and 2014 3.6R OFFICIAL [4][5]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [4][5]

Dirt in the valve body can make the AT oil temperature light flash with solenoid codes, sometimes with stalling. Subaru first flushes the transmission and runs a check, and replaces the valve body if the fault returns. Separately, on 2013 Tribeca and 2014 Legacy/Outback 3.6R the parking rod can come loose (recall 13V-336).

SYMPTOMS

- AT oil temperature light flashing
- Harsh or odd shifting
- Stalling when stopping
- Car rolls in Park (recall cars)

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Shifting problems get worse; a loose parking rod can let the car roll away.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only, 0.9 h Subaru warranty time plus ATF	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Labor only, 1.1 h Subaru warranty time plus a valve body	**$110–$180** OUR ESTIMATE [4][7] labor only, parts extra

Where the numbers come from: Early: Estimate: Subaru warranty labor time of 0.9 h (bulletin [4]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [7]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first. If it fails: Estimate: Subaru warranty labor time of 1.1 h

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Check the VIN for recall 13V-336; on a flashing AT light, flush and test before replacing parts.

(bulletin [4]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [7]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first.

PARTS FOR BR

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

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- AT light ever flashing?
- Recall 13V-336 done?

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4 Oil pressure switch (false oil light)

Any mileage

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

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (All EZ36 models built before mid-2015), so mileage doesn't say much here.

Range: All EZ36 models built before mid-2015 OFFICIAL [6]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [6]

Poor contact inside the oil pressure switch can make it work wrongly or turn on the oil pressure light when pressure is fine. Subaru changed the switch to nickel-plated contacts.

SYMPTOMS

- Oil pressure light flickering
- Oil light on with a full sump

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A false light hides a real oil-pressure warning.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Confirm real oil pressure with a gauge, then fit the revised switch.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Oil pressure switch/sensor replacement, shop and dealer quotes (YourMechanic)	**Our price is in the plan above** ask us for a written quote
Same job	**$180–$686** SHOP/RETAILER [9] reported range for the bill after a failure

PARTS FOR BR

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

QUESTIONS TO ASK US

- Oil light ever flicker?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 3.6L EZ36 flat-six 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
Battery / electrical	30	Battery drain and electrical complaints; not one engine fault.
Steering	21	Steering complaints; not an engine fault.
Stalling / loss of power	13	Mixed causes; some are the 5AT valve-body condition.

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/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 27, 2026 from NHTSA's complaints API for All 2008–2014 Tribeca complaints and 2010–2019 Outback and Legacy complaints that name the 3.6 or six-cylinder: 132 complaints. Some of these nameplates were sold with other engines too; for those we kept only complaints whose text names this engine, which under-counts. Themes are keyword matches on the complaint text. `COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA`

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Battery / electrical	30	Also reported
Steering	21	Also reported
Transmission	19	Item 3
Stalling / loss of power	13	Also reported
Coolant leak / water pump	2	Item 1
P0128 / thermostat	2	Item 2
Oil pressure light	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 2008–2014 Tribeca and 2010–2019 Outback / Legacy complaints that name the 3.6 or six-cylinder, pulled Oct 27, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) `OFFICIAL`
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. Subaru 09-83-21R: 3.6L water pump design change / coolant leaking, 2010–19 Legacy & Outback 3.6L and 2008–14 Tribeca (water pump 1.0 h; front chain cover reseal 3.1–3.4 h) (2022-03-07), filed with NHTSA `OFFICIAL`
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2022/MC-10209924-0001.pdf

3. Subaru 11-111-12R: P0128 coolant thermostat, 2011–2012 Legacy/Outback/Tribeca H-6: countermeasure heater hose pipe (2.0 h) (2012-12-06), filed with NHTSA `OFFICIAL`
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2012/MC-10234269-9999.pdf

4. Subaru 16-80-11R: AT oil temperature warning lamp flashing with solenoid DTCs, 2010–13 Legacy, Outback and Tribeca with 5AT: flush and dynamic check (0.9 h), valve body if needed (1.1 h) (2013-02-01), filed with NHTSA `OFFICIAL`
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2013/SB-10067834-0699.pdf

5. NHTSA recall records: 13V-336 (2013 Tribeca and 2014 Legacy/Outback 3.6R 5-speed automatic parking rod), checked Oct 27, 2026 `OFFICIAL`
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=13V336000

6. Subaru 02-162-15: Change to engine oil pressure switch (nickel-plated contacts against poor contact and false oil light), all models incl. 2006–14 Tribeca (2015-09-10), filed with NHTSA `OFFICIAL`
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2015/MC-10093067-2280.pdf

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

8. Kelley Blue Book: Subaru Tribeca water pump replacement, via search extract Oct 27, 2026 `SHOP/RETAILER`
https://www.kbb.com/subaru/tribeca/2012/water-pump-replacement/

9. YourMechanic: Subaru Outback oil pressure sensor replacement, via search extract Oct 27, 2026 SHOP/RETAILER
https://www.yourmechanic.com/estimates/subaru/outback/oil-pressure-sensor-replacement

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 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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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.