2016 Subaru Forester at 88,000 mi

JF2SJABC9GH123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
Forester · SJ Forester 2.5i Premium	Subaru FB20 / FB25 boxer four	88,000 mi	AWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 27, 2026	Owner	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code 'G' = 2016, 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
inspection recommended now

0
to plan in the next 30,000 miles · plus 2 factory maintenance items

2
to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (1 of 2)

- **19V-701** · Air bags · sensor · occupant classification: If the connection loosens, the front passenger airbag may deactivate even though the seat is occupied, increasing the risk of injury to the front passenger in the event of a crash.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. The full report lists the others. 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 — **$100–$160**

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

$100–$160
about 1 h of shop labor, our estimate

CVT (Lineartronic) (2016–2017: covered to 10 years / 100,000 miles): Inside the range (40,000–105,000 mi, the middle half of 157 owner reports) · **may be free at a Subaru dealer** (free under CVT warranty extension 16-115-18 (10 yr / 100k mi)) · if it fails outside that coverage: $5,000–$8,000
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 100,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 118,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

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

Carbon deposits (misfire, rough idle, knocking) **$300–$530**
labor only, parts extra

Any mileage (2017-on Impreza, 2018-on Crosstrek, 2019-on Forester, 2020-on Legacy/Outback 2.5) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Oil seepage (timing cover, cam caps, cam carrier, oil pan) **$450–$940**
labor only, parts extra

Past the range (30,000–86,000 mi, the middle half of 33 owner reports) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Recommended now

$100–$160

Independent shop, installed. Dealers often charge more.

Planned through 118,000 mi

$100–$160

No other repairs on the list before 118,000 mi. 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 88,000 mi to 118,000 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 Replace every 60,000 mi or 60 months.	every 60,000 mi or 5 years	**Was due at 60,000 mi and by age (check records)** [M2][M3][M4][M5][M6][M7]
Brake fluid Brake fluid (and clutch fluid on MT): replace every 30,000 mi or 30 months.	every 30,000 mi or 2.5 years	**Was due at 60,000 mi and by age (check records)** [M2][M3][M4][M5][M6][M7]
Engine coolant Subaru Super Coolant: first replacement after 11 years or 137,500 mi, then every 6 years or 75,000 mi.	first at 137,500 mi, then every 75,000 mi or 6 years	Next at 137,500 mi [M1][M2][M3][M4][M5][M6][M7]
CVT fluid Lineartronic CVT: normal schedule inspects the fluid (every 30,000 mi); no replacement interval.	no fixed interval	— [M1][M2][M3][M4][M5][M6][M7]

M1. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2014 Subaru?" with attached 2014 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1002371/en-us

M2. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2015 Subaru?" with attached 2015 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1001836/en-us

M3. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2016 Subaru?" with attached 2016 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1001835/en-us

M4. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2017 Subaru?" with attached 2017 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1001834/en-us

M5. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2018 Subaru?" with attached 2018 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1001833/en-us

M6. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2019 Subaru?" with attached 2019 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1001832/en-us

M7. Subaru of America: "What is the maintenance schedule for my 2020 Subaru?" with attached 2020 Warranty & Maintenance Booklet schedule pages OFFICIAL
https://contactus.subaru.com/knowledgebase/article/1002183/en-us

WHERE 88K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	CVT (Lineartronic) (2016–2017: covered to 10 years / 100,000 miles)	40,000–105,000 mi (middle half of 157 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA	Inside the range
2	Carbon deposits (misfire, rough idle, knocking)	2017-on Impreza, 2018-on Crosstrek, 2019-on Forester, 2020-on Legacy/Outback 2.5 OFFICIAL	Any mileage
3	Oil seepage (timing cover, cam caps, cam carrier, oil pan)	30,000–86,000 mi (middle half of 33 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA	Past 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 2016 Subaru Forester

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 JF2SJABC9GH123456.
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/2.5L FB RECALLS WE TRACK

Other 2.0L/2.5L FB recalls we track, not listed by NHTSA for this model and year: 18V-772 (valve springs may fracture (2012–2014 Impreza, 2013 XV Crosstrek)), 19V-744 (PCV valve may come apart (2017–2018 Impreza, 2018 Crosstrek)), 19V-745 (PCV valve may come apart (2017 Impreza)), 19V-856 (PCV valve may separate (2019 Crosstrek, Forester)), 20V-218 (low-pressure fuel pump may fail (2019 Impreza, Outback, Legacy)), 21V-587 (low-pressure fuel pump may fail (2018–2020 models)).

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2016 SUBARU FORESTER (2)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
19V-701	Air bags · sensor · occupant classification	If the connection loosens, the front passenger airbag may deactivate even though the seat is occupied, increasing the risk of injury to the front passenger in the event of a crash. Details
19V-149	Exterior lighting · brake lights · switch	Brake lights that do not illuminate properly will not alert other drivers that the vehicle is slowing or stopping, increasing the risk of crash. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-27 and combined across NHTSA model names: FORESTER. 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 (FORESTER): 16V-162 (turbo air-intake duct) covers the Forester 2.0XT only and is left out of this 2.5i sample; a VIN check would show it if it 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 (SJ). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: Excessive oil consumption (piston rings); CVT (Lineartronic).

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1 CVT (Lineartronic) (2016–2017: covered to 10 years / 100,000 miles)

Inside the range

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 0 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

At 88,000 mi this car is inside the reported range (40,000–105,000 mi (middle half of 157 owner complaints that state a mileage)), 48,000 miles past where reports start. Range: 40,000–105,000 mi (middle half of 157 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1]



Applies to: 2016–2017 Forester, Impreza, Crosstrek, Legacy and Outback with the CVT (Subaru bulletin 16-115-18)

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [4]

The CVT paired with this engine is the most common big bill. Subaru extended CVT coverage on 2016–2017 models from 5 years / 60,000 miles to 10 years or 100,000 miles, whichever comes first, from the original warranty start date. Subaru also has bulletins for judder, chain slip and valve-body updates.

SYMPTOMS

- Judder or shudder from a stop
- Hesitation
- Whine
- Flashing AWD or check-engine light

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A failing CVT can leave the car in limp mode; replacement is the usual fix.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Inside 10 years / 100,000 miles a CVT repair is free at a Subaru dealer; check the VIN before paying and act on judder early.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Free under CVT warranty extension 16-115-18 (10 yr / 100k mi)	**Free if covered** OFFICIAL [4] independent shop, installed
Owner-reported repair bills in NHTSA complaints (n=17)	**$5,000–$8,000** 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: Free under Subaru CVT warranty extension 16-115-18 inside 10 years / 100,000 miles from the warranty start date (CVT cars only) [4]. Outside the extension: Computed from 17 NHTSA owner complaints that quote a repair bill for this problem (middle half of the bills; median $7,800). Examples: ODI 11614435, 11360802, 11486899, 11265402. Owner-reported, often dealer prices; not shop quotes.

PARTS FOR SJ

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any CVT repair or replacement?
- Judder or hesitation?

2 Carbon deposits (misfire, rough idle, knocking)

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 46 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2017-on Impreza, 2018-on Crosstrek, 2019-on Forester, 2020-on Legacy/Outback 2.5), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2017-on Impreza, 2018-on Crosstrek, 2019-on Forester, 2020-on Legacy/Outback 2.5 OFFICIAL [5]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [5]

Carbon can build up on the fuel injectors, intake valves and in the combustion chambers of the direct-injection engines. It causes misfire codes, black smoke, lack of power and knocking. Subaru cleans the intake ports with walnut-shell blasting and updates the software.

SYMPTOMS

- Misfire or rough idle
- Black smoke
- Lack of power
- Knocking (ping)

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Misfires can damage the catalytic converter.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Clean when misfire codes return; follow the bulletin procedure.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only, 3–3.3 h Subaru warranty time plus cleaner	**$300–$530** OUR ESTIMATE [5][8] labor only, parts extra
Labor only, 3–3.3 h Subaru warranty time plus cleaner	**$300–$530** OUR ESTIMATE [5][8] labor only, parts extra
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($415) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($415). A cost ratio, not a probability.

Where the numbers come from: Estimate: Subaru warranty labor time of 3–3.3 h (bulletin [5]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [8]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first.

PARTS FOR SJ

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any misfire codes?

3 Oil seepage (timing cover, cam caps, cam carrier, oil pan)

Past the range

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 73 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

At 88,000 mi this car is past the reported range (30,000–86,000 mi (middle half of 33 owner complaints that state a mileage)). If the original parts are still fitted, have them checked and plan for them. Range: 30,000–86,000 mi (middle

half of 33 owner complaints that state a mileage) COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA [1]



Applies to: 2012–2021 Forester and Impreza and other FB models

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [6]

Oil can seep from the timing chain cover, the front cam caps, the camshaft carriers or the upper oil pan. Subaru reseals the leaking joint.

SYMPTOMS

- Oil wetness on the front or sides of the engine
- Burning-oil smell
- Oil spots under the car

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A growing leak lowers the oil level and can drip on the exhaust.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Find the exact source first; cam carrier jobs are large.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Labor only, 4.5–5.9 h Subaru warranty time plus sealer	**$450–$940** OUR ESTIMATE [6][8] labor only, parts extra
Labor only, 4.5–5.9 h Subaru warranty time plus sealer	**$450–$940** OUR ESTIMATE [6][8] labor only, parts extra
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($695) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($695). A cost ratio, not a probability.

Where the numbers come from: Estimate: Subaru warranty labor time of 4.5–5.9 h (bulletin [6]) × $100–$160/h independent-shop labor rate [8]. Parts are extra unless stated; check the VIN for open warranty coverage first. The bulletin lists engine removal (3.4–3.9 h) as a separate operation that may also be needed.

PARTS FOR SJ

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

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any oil spots or smell?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 2.0L/2.5L FB 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	913	Includes fuel pump recalls 20V-218 and 21V-587, PCV valve recalls 19V-744/745/856 and the valve-spring recall 18V-772; check they are done.
Battery drain	660	Common in the complaints; Subaru extended 12-volt battery coverage on some 2015–2020 models. Not an engine fault.

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

- Oil level and consumption history
- CVT judder or whine on a road test
- Oil seepage at timing cover and cam carriers
- Misfire codes

Ask the seller

- Short block or CVT replaced under an extension?
- PCV, fuel pump and valve-spring recalls done?

Documents to request

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

WHAT A BUYER MAY DEDUCT

FINDING	ESTIMATED ADJUSTMENT
CVT (Lineartronic) (2016–2017: covered to 10 years / 100,000 miles): fault found on inspection	$5,000–$8,000
Carbon deposits (misfire, rough idle, knocking): symptoms or fault codes present	$300–$530 + parts
Oil seepage (timing cover, cam caps, cam carrier, oil pan): seeping or leaking	$450–$940 + 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 27, 2026 from NHTSA's complaints API for All Impreza and Crosstrek complaints for the listed years, plus Forester, Legacy and Outback complaints that do not mention a turbo, XT, 2.4T or six-cylinder: 14,489 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 / loss of power	913	Also reported
Battery drain	660	Also reported
CVT / transmission	612	Other years or engine sizes
Oil consumption	204	Other years or engine sizes
Oil leak	73	Item 3
Misfire / carbon	46	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 2011–2025 Forester (non-turbo), Impreza, Crosstrek, and 2013–2025 Legacy/Outback (four-cylinder, non-turbo), pulled Oct 27, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. Subaru Service Bulletin 02-157-14R: Engine oil consumption: powertrain warranty extended to 8 years / 100,000 miles (FB20/FB25) (2021-04-13), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2021/MC-10191563-0001.pdf

3. Subaru Service Bulletin 16-107-17R: CVT warranty extension to 10 years / 100,000 miles, 2010–2015 models (2021-02-01), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2021/MC-10187317-0001.pdf

4. Subaru Service Bulletin 16-115-18: CVT warranty extension to 10 years / 100,000 miles, 2016–2017 models (2018-09-06), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2018/MC-10146475-9999.pdf

5. Subaru Service Bulletin 02-193-24R: Walnut blast cleaning for carbon deposits causing misfire, black smoke, lack of power, knocking (2026-06-29), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2026/MC-11034269-0001.pdf

6. Subaru Service Bulletin 02-131-12R: Oil seepage from timing chain cover, front camshaft cap, camshaft carrier and/or upper oil pan (2023-06-29), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2023/MC-10238465-0001.pdf

7. NHTSA recall records: 18V-772 (valve springs), 19V-744 / 19V-745 / 19V-856 (PCV valve), 20V-218 and 21V-587 (fuel pumps), checked Oct 27, 2026 OFFICIAL
https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls?nhtsaId=18V772000

8. Tekmetric: average auto repair labor rates by state, 2026 (national average $132/h; state averages $85–$197/h). We use $100–$160/h for labor-time estimates. 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. 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

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-SUBFB-123456-20261027 and we'll correct and reissue it.
