

New Jersey Vehicle Inspection Program FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my vehicle need to be inspected?

Effective August 1, 2010, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) made changes to the New Jersey Vehicle Inspection Program eliminating the mechanical defects portion of the inspection process for passenger vehicles. Most passenger vehicles will be required to be inspected every two years for emissions only. Commercial vehicles and buses will be required to be inspected every year for mechanical defects and emissions. Motorcycles no longer require inspection.

What vehicles have to be inspected every two years for emissions?

Vehicles that have to be inspected for emissions every two years are:

- Gasoline and bi-fueled vehicles plated as passenger, not-for-profit, governmental, commuter van, farmer or farm truck, five (5) model years and older, excluding buses
- Diesel-powered, passenger motor vehicles plated as passenger, not-for-profit, governmental, commuter van, farmer or farm truck model year 1997 and newer with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) 8,500 pounds or less, five (5) model years and older, excluding buses

What if my vehicle failed inspection prior to August 1, 2010?

Any vehicle rejected for mechanical defects before August 1, 2010 will still require repair and need to pass a re-inspection at either a Private Inspection Facility or state operated facility before a certificate of approval (passing inspection sticker) can be issued.

What if my vehicle was due for inspection prior to August 1, 2010 and I was unable to have it inspected until after that date?

Any vehicle due for inspection prior to August 1, 2010 that is presented for an initial inspection after August 1, 2010, will only be given the required emission test. Even with the enactment of these changes, motorists are still required to ensure that their vehicles are free from mechanical defects. A vehicle with mechanical or equipment defects may be cited by law enforcement at any time.

What vehicles do not have to be inspected?

Vehicles that do not have to be inspected include:

- Motorcycles
- Diesel-powered, passenger motor vehicles plated as passenger, not-for-profit, governmental, commuter van, farmer or farm truck, with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 8,501 to 9,999 pounds, regardless of model year
- Diesel-powered, passenger motor vehicles plated as passenger, not-for-profit, governmental, commuter van, farmer or farm truck model year 1996 and older with GVWR 9,999 pounds or less
- Diesel-powered trucks plated as commercial, passenger, not-for-profit, governmental, commuter van, farmer or farm truck with a GVWR of 10,000 to 17,999 pounds (self-inspected under NJAC 13:20-26.16)
- Vehicles registered as “farm use” or “farm tractor”
- Collector Vehicles (Odometer and credential verification at state operated Inspection Facility)
- Historic Plates (QQ)
- Trailer
- Mopeds

What vehicles are required to be inspected yearly for both mechanical defects and emissions?

Vehicles required to be inspected yearly for mechanical defects and emissions are listed below:

- Taxis
- Limousines
- Jitneys
- All gasoline or bi-fueled-powered, commercial plated (x-plated) vehicles
- Diesel-powered, commercial-plated (x-plated) vehicles with a GVWR of 9,999 pounds or less
- Ambulances registered by the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH). Frequency of inspection is determined by DOH
- Buses issued passenger, governmental, no fee, or commercial vehicle license plates not subject to inspection by the Commercial Bus Inspection Unit or the School Bus Inspection Unit

Where can I get my vehicle inspected?

Vehicles that require gasoline emission tests every two years and those that require yearly mechanical defect and emission testing must be inspected at either a state operated or Private Inspection Facility. Heavy-duty diesel-powered motor vehicles (GVWR 18,000 or greater) are required to have a yearly opacity inspection performed at a Diesel Private Inspection Facility.

What do I have to bring to have my car inspected?

You must bring ALL the following ORIGINAL documents (no photocopies, e-mails or faxes):

- Your valid driver license; you must be at least 17 years old. Driver does not need to be the vehicle owner
- Valid NJ vehicle registration document (no online renewal receipt)
- Valid NJ Vehicle Insurance Identification Card issued by insurance company:
 - Last name on Insurance Card must match owner's last name on vehicle registration document
 - Leasing companies must be listed as owner on leased vehicle ID cards
 - Owner insured fleet, dealer or leasing company insurance ID cards are acceptable with the words "All Owned Vehicles" or "Fleet" inserted in the vehicle description portion of the card
 - Insured name and owner name, matching the vehicle registration, are required for "Fleet" leased vehicle ID cards

What if I don't want to wait in line at the Inspection Station?

If you do not want to wait in line at the Inspection Station, you can make an appointment at one of five select state operated facilities - Westfield, Salem, Bridgeton, Cape May or Washington (Warren County) - [online](http://www.njmvc.gov) at www.njmvc.gov or by calling (888) NJMOTOR (656-6867) toll free in NJ or (609) 620-7992 from out-of-state. Customer service representatives are available Mon-Thu, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Sat., 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where else can I get my car inspected?

You may choose to have your car inspected at a local Private Inspection Facility. A Private Inspection Facility is a privately-owned garage, that charges a fee, and is licensed by the state to perform the required mechanical and emission inspections. To find the nearest Private Inspection Facility, search online at www.njmvc.gov under Inspections.

If my vehicle fails an emissions test where can I get it repaired?

The motorist has a choice to either make the emission repairs themselves or have the repairs made at an MVC- registered Emission Repair Facility. An Emission Repair Facility is a registered emission repair facility that meets the qualifications and training requirements for emission repairs and maintenance set forth by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. To find the nearest Emission Repair Facility location, search online at www.njmvc.gov under Inspections.

How do I get a replacement inspection sticker?

To get a replacement inspection sticker issued for an inspection conducted at a state operated or Private Inspection Facility or, you must go to designated re-inspection area of your local state operated inspection station. You must present to the inspector at the station your driver license, vehicle registration and insurance card. All documents must be originals, no copies, faxes or computer generated files.

You must also present one of the documents listed below:

- Inspection sticker
- Vehicle Inspection Report (copy available [online](http://www.njmvc.gov) at www.njmvc.gov)
- Repair invoice from a glass company for windshield replacement
- Police report

The inspector will install a new inspection sticker at no cost to the motorist.

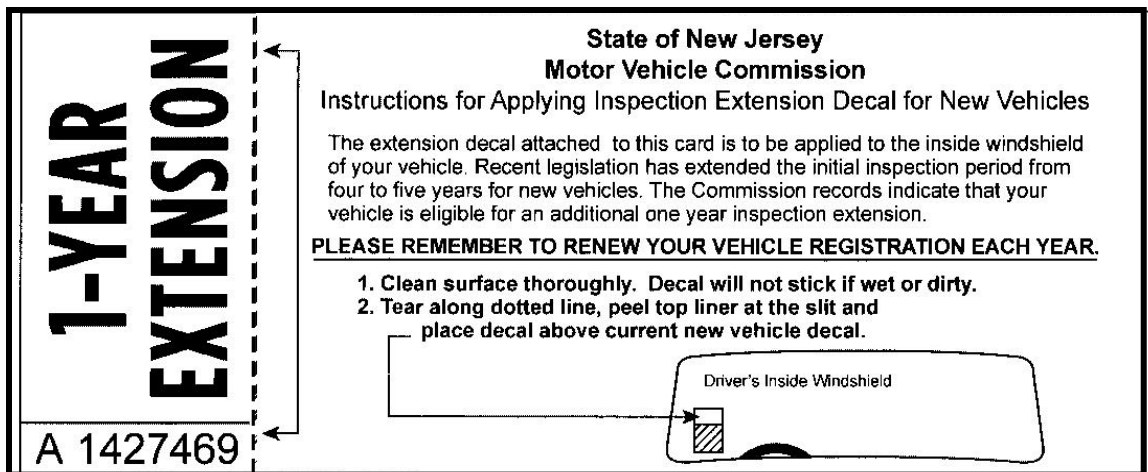
I bought a model year 2010 car from a New Jersey New Car Dealer this year, when does it have to be inspected?

Starting August 1, 2010, all vehicles less than five (5) model years old, when purchased from a new car dealer, will have a New Car Dealer Inspection Decal installed on the car's windshield in the lower driver side corner. The decal will expire on the last day of the month in which the car was registered, 5 years from the model year.

I bought a model year 2010 car prior to August 1, 2010 and received a New Car Inspection Decal for four (4) years. Why didn't my car get a five (5) year decal?


Since the law just went into effect on August 1, 2010, you were not eligible for a five (5) year inspection decal when you purchased your car. However, if you purchased a car less than five model years old including 2010 between August 1, 2006 and July 2010, your car qualifies to receive an additional one (1) year extension. Owners of these vehicles will receive a "1-YEAR EXTENSION" Inspection Decal in the mail from the MVC during the summer of 2010.

See the sample below:



What if a car less than five (5) model years old is purchased from someone other than a New Jersey New Car Dealer and has never been inspected in the State of New Jersey, when does my car have to be inspected?

Any car less than five (5) model years is eligible for a five (5) year inspection exemption which means that it can receive a New Car Dealer Inspection Decal expiring on the last day of the month which the car was registered 5 years from the model year. You should have received a green card or SS-19 from the MVC Motor Vehicle Agency at the time of registration.

 <p>New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission</p>	
<p>INSPECTION DECAL REPLACEMENT FOR VEHICLES LESS THAN 4 YEARS OLD FOR USED VEHICLES BEING REGISTERED IN NJ WITHOUT A VALID INSPECTION DECAL</p>	
<p>Unless otherwise required by law, vehicles are not required to be inspected until they are 4 model years old. Upon registration, the vehicle will receive an inspection decal, at an official inspection facility, expiring on the last day of the month in which it was registered 4 years from the model year. The vehicle indicated below* must be presented at a designated area of an official state inspection facility within 14 days of this notice to receive a motor vehicle inspection approval decal. The operator must have a valid driver license, current registration, and proof of New Jersey approved insurance upon arrival.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Obvious defects will invalidate this notice and require a full vehicle inspection.</i></p>	
Date vehicle was registered _____	Make of Vehicle _____
License Plate No. _____	NJ Motor Vehicle Agency where vehicle was registered: _____
Inspection Decal No. _____	Date Issued _____
SS-19 (R12/09)	Please read back of this form
<p>*If your vehicle has a current NJ Inspection decal, you must use the remaining time before presenting your vehicle for inspection.</p>	
<p>ALWAYS BUCKLE UP AND DRIVE FRIENDLY...AND... DON'T FORGET...WIPERS ON -- LIGHTS ON. IT'S THE LAW.</p>	
<p>NEW JERSEY MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION On the Road to Excellence Visit us at www.njmvc.gov</p>	

The SS-19 instructs you to take your car to designated re-inspection area of your local state operated inspection station to receive a New Car Dealer Inspection Decal. At the station you must present to the inspector your driver license, valid NJ vehicle registration and valid NJ insurance card. All documents must be NJ originals, no copies, faxes or computer generated files. After reviewing the documents, the inspector will install a New Car Dealer Inspection Decal expiring on the last day of the month which the car was registered 5 years from the model year.

Is my motorcycle required to be inspected?

Effective August 1, 2010, motorcycles are no longer required to submit for an inspection in the State of New Jersey. Riders should keep in mind that it is their responsibility to ensure that their motorcycles are free from mechanical defects and are operating properly.

How do I self-inspect my motorcycle?

Here are some points that every rider should remember before they hit the road. They should be mindful to have the current motorcycle registration, insurance card and driver license with them whenever they ride. Of course, they must always ride with the correct protective equipment which includes the following:

- USDOT approved non-reflective helmet with four inches of reflective tape on each side
- Approved goggles or face shield if motorcycle is not equipped with an approved wind screen

Finally, it is important that the motorcycle be examined to ensure that every component is working in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and is not bent, loose, damaged, broken, defective or out of alignment. These components are as follow:

- Steering, suspension, and wheel alignment
- Handlebar grips that are not higher than your shoulders when you are seated on the motorcycle in normal driving position
- Horn
- Red rear light and reflector
- Stop light
- Head light
- Rear view mirror
- Exhaust system
- Tires
- Seat, hand holds, and foot rests
- Adequate brakes (all motorcycles made after 1974 require brakes on front and rear wheels)

It is important for all riders to remember that any vehicle, including motorcycles, may be cited by law enforcement at any time for mechanical defects or when equipment is out of compliance. For further additional information on motorcycle safety and training please refer to www.NJridesafe.org.