

Checking and replacing Glow Plugs for Winter

Agnieszka Piechocka, Product Specialist for Glow Plugs, takes us through winter precautions for this essential component.

Despite being key components in a modern diesel engine, the unique role of glow plugs means that motorists are far more likely to notice a fault during the colder winter months.

With over 90 years of experience and expertise in the development of the diesel engine, each generation of Bosch glow plug has led to a more highly engineered product - built for optimum performance whilst retaining the durability and reliability that the company is prides itself on. Today, Bosch develops the technology used in the latest cars and continues to invest in research and development to continue to improve this crucial product.

Underlining the importance of thorough winter checks on vehicles, healthy glow plugs not only ensure a diesel engine starts quickly and easily, but also that it will continue to run smoothly. Located deep inside the engine, glow plugs operate in the arduous conditions of the combustion chamber, across a huge temperature range, and perform for tens of thousands of miles. However, many owners remain unaware that glow plug wear, and eventually fail – so workshops have an important role to play in checking, advising and replacing when required.

To ensure that owners aren't stranded when the cold weather hits, workshops and technicians need to check glow plugs well ahead of the winter season, and there are some easy to spot, tell-tail signs that they may need replacing. As outside temperatures begin to drop, the engine may not start as smoothly, if at all, and, even when warm, the engine may refuse to run evenly. A fall in engine power or a rise in fuel consumption, along with an increase in visible exhaust smoke, are also good warning indicators.

However, it's not just about smooth running. Originally, glow plug systems were only used when starting a diesel engine but their role has expanded, helping a modern engine run more effectively, helping lower fuel consumption and reducing harmful

exhaust gasses. Bosch glow plugs continue to glow for up to 360 seconds at the warm-up phase – reducing exhaust gasses by up to 60% compared to a cold engine.

The Bosch range of glow plugs provides the right solution for almost every diesel vehicle, covering over 90% of the global market through its international manufacturing network. Providing OE quality products for the aftermarket, it ensures that workshops can fit replacement glow plugs with confidence.

Bosch recommends that glow plugs are replaced every 50,000 to 60,000 miles (80,000-100,000 km), and it is often more economical for customers to have an entire set replaced at the same time. Once one plug has reached the end of its effective service life, it is likely that the remaining plugs also have the same amount of degradation and need to be changed as a precaution. Generally, from a labour point of view it is cheaper for a customer to have the complete set replaced rather than substituting one glow plug at a time - especially considering that the glow plugs' wiring harness and conductor bars need to be removed during each replacement.

The Bosch range includes three variations of glow plugs; Bosch Duraterm, Bosch Duraterm High Speed and Bosch Duraspeed. Reliable in the coldest of starts, Bosch glow plugs continue to perform consistently. Made with either a metallic or ceramic elements, and with the appropriate heating element diameter, Bosch glow plugs perfectly combine a high level of resistance, operating voltage, maximum preheating temperature, heating time, and afterglow period to meet the specific requirements of every vehicle model. They also have a high resistance to chemical, mechanical, and thermal loads to provide a long service life.

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In the UK, Bosch has been present since 1898, when Robert Bosch opened the company's first office outside Germany. Every one of the Bosch Group's business sectors has a presence in the UK: Automotive Technology, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. Bosch operates in the UK as Robert Bosch Limited and employs around 5,300 associates across 41 sites. In 2014, Bosch generated revenues in the UK of 3.7 billion euros.

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. It employs roughly 375,000 associates worldwide (as of December 31, 2015). The company generated sales of 70.6 billion euros in 2015. Its operations are divided into four business sectors: Mobility Solutions, Industrial

Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology. The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its roughly 440 subsidiaries and regional companies in some 60 countries. Including sales and service partners, Bosch's global manufacturing and sales network covers some 150 countries. The basis for the company's future growth is its innovative strength. Bosch employs 55,800 associates in research and development at 118 locations across the globe. The Bosch Group's strategic objective is to deliver innovations for a connected life. Bosch improves quality of life worldwide with products and services that are innovative and spark enthusiasm. In short, Bosch creates technology that is Invented for life. _

The company was set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering. _The special ownership structure of Robert Bosch GmbH guarantees the entrepreneurial freedom of the Bosch Group, making it possible for the company to plan over the long term and to undertake significant up-front investments in the safeguarding of its future. Ninety-two percent of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, a charitable foundation. The majority of voting rights are held by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG, an industrial trust. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by the trust. The remaining shares are held by the Bosch family and by Robert Bosch GmbH. Additional information is available online at www.bosch.co.uk, [@BoschUK](https://www.facebook.com/BoschUK), www.facebook.com/BoschUK