

# Air Pollution Control In Vermont

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## VEHICLE EMISSIONS WARRANTY INFORMATION

Depending on the model year and mileage of your vehicle, the cost of emissions system repairs may be covered by the vehicle manufacturer. Vermont law requires that a vehicle's entire emissions control system be warranted for a minimum of 3 years or 50,000 miles\*. Warranty coverage for the more expensive emissions control components is extended to at least 7 years or 70,000 miles\*, and the engine computer and catalytic converter are covered for 8 years or 80,000 miles\*. Some vehicles' emissions control systems are warranted up to 15 years or 150,000 miles!

*Knowing about your vehicle's warranty could save you significant money, and can also help protect Vermont's air quality!*

## WHAT TYPES OF VEHICLE REPAIRS ARE COVERED UNDER WARRANTY?

There are two basic types of warranties – the *Manufacturer's Warranty*, and the *Emissions Warranty*.

- **Manufacturer's Warranty** - New vehicles are sold with a *Manufacturer's Warranty*, typically providing “bumper-to-bumper” coverage for a minimum of 3 years or 36,000 miles, whichever comes first. Coverage varies, however, between manufacturers – check your Owner's Manual or Warranty Booklet. This *Manufacturer's Warranty* covers most components of the vehicle, although certain expendable components like tires and batteries may be covered separately by the original tire or battery producer. This warranty covers both emissions related and non-emissions related repairs.
- **Emissions Warranty** - In addition to a manufacturer's new vehicle warranty, both Federal and California laws require additional *Emissions Warranty* coverage for emissions-related parts. The modern automobile and truck utilize complex technologies to minimize emissions while maximizing performance and fuel economy. If any of a large number of vehicle components is malfunctioning, vehicle emissions can increase. The majority of engine and fuel system parts, including the computer or engine control unit, the catalytic converter, most electronic sensors and control devices, and some transmission and chassis parts are considered emissions-related.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA EMISSIONS WARRANTIES?

- **Federal Emissions Warranty** – Under the *Federal Emissions Warranty*, all emissions related parts are covered for 2 years or 24,000 miles\*, with the catalytic converter and engine control unit (the computer) covered for 8 years or 80,000 miles\*. These *Federal Emissions Warranty* provisions cover light-duty vehicles up to 8500 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR).
- **California Emissions Warranty** – Under the *California Emissions Warranty*, vehicles certified for sale in California, and those states like Vermont that have adopted California Emissions Standards by law, have additional coverage beyond that required under Federal law. Under the *California Emissions Warranty*, all emissions related parts are covered for 3 years or 50,000 miles\*, and a vehicle-specific list of more expensive emissions related parts is covered for 7 years or 70,000 miles\*. In addition, the 8 year or 80,000 mile\* coverage for the catalytic converter and engine control unit required by Federal law also applies. Also, some 2003 and later models, certified as California Partial Zero Emission Vehicles

(PZEV), have 15 year or 150,000 mile\* emissions warranties essentially covering any component that causes the Check Engine Light to illuminate. These *California Emissions Warranty* provisions cover vehicles up to 14,000 pounds GVWR.

## **WHICH EMISSIONS WARRANTIES APPLY TO MY VEHICLE?**

- Either Federal or California *and* Federal Warranty provisions will apply. By law, your vehicle must have an underhood Vehicle Emissions Control Information (VECI) label which will identify it as either a California-certified vehicle, a U.S. EPA-certified (Federal) vehicle, or both (known as a “50 State” vehicle). The VECI label may also indicate if a California or “50 State” vehicle is certified as a PZEV, with the 15 year or 150,000 mile\* emissions warranty. Your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) can also be used to identify which warranty applies by calling your dealer or the toll-free Customer Assistance Center listed in your Owner’s Manual or Warranty Booklet.
- Starting with the 2000 model year, most new vehicles sold in Vermont were required to be California or “50 State” certified vehicles, so if you have a 2000 or newer vehicle, it’s likely that your vehicle has both California and Federal Emissions Warranty coverage. Many new vehicles sold in Vermont prior to the 2000 model year were also California or “50 State” certified, so be sure to check your VECI label!

## **WHAT IF THERE IS DISAGREEMENT ABOUT WHAT MY WARRANTY COVERS?**

- Proof of maintenance is not absolutely required, but the vehicle owner is responsible for scheduled maintenance.
- You can not be denied coverage if you have performed maintenance using after-market parts, or at an independent repair facility, or you perform maintenance yourself.
- Abuse or accident damage is not covered.
- Used vehicles are covered.
- Resources include the toll-free manufacturer’s Customer Assistance Center, and local and state consumer protection groups (“Community Service Numbers/ Consumer Services & Complaints” in your phone book).

## **WHY ARE EMISSIONS WARRANTIES IMPORTANT?**

- Because the modern vehicle is such a complex and integrated device, a problem with a small part may have far-reaching consequences on emissions and the air we breathe, and may be expensive to repair if neglected beyond the manufacturer’s basic warranty period. An emissions-related problem may prevent passing the annual Vermont Vehicle Inspection. Even small increases in emissions in individual vehicles, when multiplied by the size of the overall vehicle fleet and the ever-increasing annual vehicle miles traveled, place a significant burden on public health, Vermont’s environment, and even the general global climate.
- Emissions Warranties are law to help protect our health and our environment. Warranties are an integral part of the modern, well-built and long-lived motor vehicle. Vehicles now last considerably longer than in earlier years, thanks in part to Emissions Warranty protection!

\* whichever comes first

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

- **Consult your Owner’s Manual or Warranty Booklet.**
- **Contact your local dealer.**
- **Contact the manufacturer through the toll-free Customer Assistance number listed in the Owner’s Manual and Warranty Booklet.**

- **Contact the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Air Pollution Control Division, toll-free at 888-520-4879.**
- **You may also wish to check the California Air Resources Board (CARB) website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccvl/ccvl.htm> to search for PZEV vehicles with 15 years/150,000 mile “Extended” emissions warranties.**
- **Remember to take a moment, and check your Owner’s Manual and Warranty Booklet!**