



Automotive Artisan

Car Review



Up-to-date automotive repair costs for
everyday vehicles commonly found
across Canada

automotiveartisan.com

Manufacturer: Dodge

Car: 2012 Dodge Caliber



Thank you for your interest in The Automotive Artisan vehicle reviews.

Attached is the review for the vehicle you have requested, which includes a concise history of the manufacturer in Canada, a detailed list of repairs undertaken, the associated costs, and our evaluation score.

Our reviews draw from a comprehensive dataset encompassing thousands of individual repairs amounting to millions of dollars in expenses nationwide. All of the data is from repairs completed in the last two years with the older data being deleted. We add hundreds of new repairs every month to ensure the data is completely up to date.

If a car model has recurring issues, they are flagged in red which will lower the vehicle's rating, while those with minimal red flags will raise the rating.

Our assessment criteria include repair costs, frequency of part failures, availability of used, aftermarket, and OEM parts, and how the manufacturer compares to other similar automotive brands and models.

If you have conducted repairs not listed for a vehicle and wish to contribute to our database, please email the details (Year, Make, Model, Part Replaced, and Cost before taxes) to automotiveartisanreviews@gmail.com

Additionally, if you have received notifications regarding extended coverage or recalls from the manufacturer of your vehicle, which could benefit other owners, please send the document to automotiveartisanreviews@gmail.com after removing personal information. Please note, we do not print or retain any documents internally. Once we have extracted the information, your email will be deleted.

Manufacturer History

In 1928, Chrysler took the reins of Dodge after the passing of the founding Dodge brothers in 1920, a move that laid the foundation for a storied partnership. Initially known for its robust lineup of pickup trucks and full-size cars, Dodge faced challenges in the wake of the 1973 oil embargo, as shifting consumer preferences necessitated a move towards smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles.

A pivotal moment arrived in 1981 with the introduction of the K-car, also known as the Dodge Aries, marking Dodge's foray into front-wheel-drive vehicles and heralding the dawn of a new era. The K-car platform spawned a diverse range of vehicles, notably including the revolutionary Dodge Caravan, which not only revitalized Chrysler but also pioneered a new market segment, effectively signaling the end of the station wagon era.

In 1992, Dodge made waves with the debut of the high-performance Viper, featuring a ground-breaking aluminum V10 engine, symbolizing the advent of "The New Dodge" era. Two years later, the iconic Dodge Ram pickup underwent a dramatic redesign, shedding its boxy design for a more modern and aerodynamic silhouette.

The landscape shifted once again in 1998 when Chrysler Corporation merged with Daimler-Benz AG to form DaimlerChrysler, a move aimed at strengthening global competitiveness. However, challenges loomed on the horizon, and in May 2009, both Chrysler and GM filed for bankruptcy in the aftermath of the housing bubble collapse, marking a tumultuous period in automotive history.

Amidst uncertainty, Italian automaker Fiat stepped in, forging a strategic partnership with Chrysler, bolstered by significant financial assistance from the US government. By May 2011, Chrysler had repaid its debts, paving the way for the completion of the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) merger in 2014, marking a new chapter in its journey.

In 2021, FCA and the French PSA (Peugeot) group joined forces to form Stellantis, a manufacturing powerhouse poised to shape the future of mobility.

Today, the Dodge lineup remains synonymous with high-performance vehicles, including the Charger, Challenger and Durango, renowned for their impressive horsepower and exhilarating driving experiences. Additionally, Dodge has embraced innovation with models like the plug-in hybrid Hornet, showcasing its commitment to sustainable mobility.

Dodge, recognized for its everyday vehicles, also presents certain considerations regarding common issues and overall reliability.

Dodge vehicles often boast a lower starting price compared to competitors, making them appealing to budget-conscious buyers. However, this affordability is mirrored in the lower resale value of Dodge vehicles, which can impact long-term ownership costs.

While repair costs per incident may be lower for Dodge vehicles, the frequency of repairs tends to be higher, particularly among models like the Ram 1500, Dodge Grand Caravan, and Dodge Journey. This results in greater overall maintenance expenses over time.

Dodge vehicles exhibit a range of common failures, including issues with the AC system, alternators, axle shafts, brake calipers, differentials, door lock actuators, engines, exhaust manifolds, head gaskets, radios, starters, steering shafts, suspension components, thermostats, transmissions, water pumps, wheel bearings, and window regulators. This list is the most comprehensive of the manufacturer's in Canada.

Manufacturer Grade: E

Car Model Repair Grade: F

While Dodge vehicles offer affordability, prospective buyers should be mindful of the number of times the vehicle will be at the repair facility. Considering the extensive repairs, lower quality perception, and high failure rate of their transmissions, our rating system assigns the Dodge line an 'E' grade. This low rating underscores the importance of careful consideration and thorough research before purchasing a Dodge vehicle.

At The Automotive Artisan, we meticulously assess vehicles based on their performance, reliability, and overall value to provide you with informed recommendations. Here's how we categorize and grade vehicles:

Grade A: Highly Recommended

These vehicles exhibit exceptional reliability with minimal inherent issues. Repair costs are generally low, making them a solid choice for discerning buyers.

Grade B: Recommended

While these vehicles may experience slightly higher failure rates compared to Grade A, issues are not widespread across the model line. They still represent a reliable choice for most consumers.

Grade C: Moderate Recommendation

Vehicles in this category experience a notable increase in failures, with some common issues beginning to emerge as trends. Consideration of repair costs and frequency is advised.

Grade D: Caution Advised

These vehicles have higher-than-average failure rates and exhibit consistent patterns of issues across models. Buyers should proceed with caution and be prepared for potential repair expenses.

Grade E: Not Recommended

Vehicles in this grade have significant reliability issues, resulting in frequent failures and consistently high repair costs across the board. We advise against purchasing these models.

Grade F: Strongly Not Recommended

These vehicles are notorious for their high failure rates and costly major repairs. They represent a poor investment due to ongoing reliability concerns and reputation for expensive maintenance.

Our grading system aims to assist consumers with insight into vehicle reliability and repair costs, ensuring informed decisions when selecting their next vehicle.

Definitions

Aftermarket: In the automotive industry, an aftermarket part refers to a component produced by a company other than the vehicle manufacturer, commonly used for vehicle maintenance, repairs or customization.

OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer): OEM parts are components built and sold by the original manufacturer of the vehicle. They are designed to meet the exact specifications and quality standards of the vehicle's original parts.

Remanufactured (Reman): Remanufactured parts are previously failed components that have been repaired or refurbished with new parts. These parts are typically sold by aftermarket companies or manufacturers, often through dealerships. Drivetrain components such as transmissions, differentials, transfer cases, and engines are commonly included in this category.

Rebuilt: Rebuilding refers to a repair process carried out at an automotive garage, where worn or damaged parts are replaced with new components. For instance, a transmission may undergo a rebuild process at a specialized transmission shop, typically involving the installation of a repair kit to address common failures.

Used: Used parts are pre-owned components sourced from salvage yards. These parts are often salvaged from vehicles involved in accidents or declared as write-offs. While used parts are usually more affordable, they may carry some degree of risk due to their previous usage.

CVT (Continuously Variable Transmission): CVT is a type of transmission that operates without traditional gears. Instead, it utilizes a belt and pulley system to continuously vary the drive ratio, allowing for seamless acceleration and a smooth driving experience.

Common Repairs

2012 DODGE CALIBER - GRADE - F - COMMON - SUSPENSION, ALTERNATORS, STEERING		COMPARABLE VEHICLES INCLUDE THE TOYOTA MATRIX, FORD FOCUS & MAZDA 3
Repairs	Frequency	Repair \$
O2 Sensor - Upstream	1	456
Alternator	11	695-742
Ball Joint - Front Lower	13	296-332
Catalytic Converter	1	3219
Charcoal Canister	1	417
Control Arm - Front Lower	23	348-574
Control Arm - Rear Lower	12	256-285
Control Arm - Rear Upper	17	285-357
Engine Control Module - Used	1	561
Engine Mount - Rear	1	453
Exhaust Manifold	1	826
HVAC Control Head	1	596
Intake Manifold	1	1011
Lateral Arms - Rear	1	476
Power Steering Pump	1	481
Stab Links - Front	1	312
Starter	4	501-548
Tie Rod - Outer	6	254-359
Toe Link - Rear	9	424-487
Transmission - Used CVT	1	3621
Wheel Bearing - Front	7	435-518
Wheel Bearing - Rear	8	408-479
Wheel Cylinder - Rear	2	218
Window Regulator - Front	1	463

Variances in pricing for similar repairs can be due to labor rates (range from \$80/hour to \$200/hour), diagnostic charges, parts pricing, quality of supplied part etc. All prices shown are before taxes. While this list covers a wide range of repairs specific to this vehicle, it does not encompass all potential issues an individual vehicle might encounter. It serves as a guide highlighting common failures marked in red, alongside other issues that may be less vehicle-specific.

The Automotive Artisan is independent and not affiliated with any manufacturers or repair facilities. We do not endorse any repair facilities listed in our directory, nor do we receive any financial compensation from them related to a repair. We receive invoices from various locations across Canada, and the data we compile for each vehicle is based on its prevalence, frequency of failures, and the duration it remains on the road. All repair information pertains to vehicles with mileage below 200,000 kilometers and outside the manufacturer's warranty period.