



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET:www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received
2:15
25-SEP-2006

Repository
Reference No.
10169202

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED]
City STUDIO CITY State CA Zip Code [REDACTED]

Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED] E-mail Address [REDACTED]
Evening Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner _____ Date 9/1/06

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side
1G2WP12K7XF [REDACTED]
Make PONTIAC Model GRAND PRIX Model Year 1999
Date Purchased 16-DEC-00 Dealer's Name and Telephone Number SOUTH COAST ACURA 714-979-2500 Engine: No: Cylinders Fuel Type: Gas
Original Owner Dealer's City COSTA MESA State CA Zip Code 92626
Transmission Type AUTOMATIC Antilock Brakes Cruise Control Powertrain Vehicle Component Code 063200 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:EXHAUST SYSTEM:MANIFOLD
Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s) 21-AUG-2006 Failure Mileage 44632 Failure Speed

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make Tire Model (Name or Number) Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036) Original Equipment Prior Repair Failure Location:
Tire Component Code Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make: Date Manufactured: Model No./Name:
Seat Type: Installation System:
Child Seat Component Code: Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).)

Crash Yes No Fire Yes No Number of Persons Injured Number of Deaths Reported to Police N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).
Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

DT*: THE CONTACT STATED WHILE DRIVING 40 MPH, THERE WAS A CLUNKING NOISE COMING FROM THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. A WARNING LIGHT ON THE DASHBOARD ILLUMINATED CONSTANTLY. THERE WAS GREY SMOKE EMANATING FROM THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO A PRIVATE REPAIR SHOP, WHERE THE ENGINE STALLED. THE MECHANIC DETERMINED THAT THE UPPER INTAKE MANIFOLD HAD CRACKED. THE INTAKE MANIFOLD CASKET KIT, AS WELL AS SIX SPARK PLUGS WERE REPLACED. THE MANIFOLD WAS ALSO FLUSHED REPEATEDLY TO REMOVE SEALANT THAT HAD BEEN IN THE MANIFOLD SYSTEM PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT. THE REPAIRS CORRECTED THE PROBLEM.

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

STUDIO CITY
CALIFORNIA

October 3, 2006

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
400 SEVENTH STREET,S.W.
WASHINGTON,D.C.20590

REFERENCE: #10169202 Dated September 25, 2006
Pontiac Case# 1-432078146 Dated September 20, 2006

Dear Sirs,

Attached are Consumer Guide reliability records, Vehicle information when purchased in 2000, and the mechanical invoice listing repairs.

As a personal statement, I found it strange that a vehicle with 44,000 miles would have a cracked Manifold and be filled with sealant since the auto was purchased at 10,000 miles in 2000. Searching the internet, I ran across the attached Consumer Guide review that clearly shows the material used in the models noted was plastic and subject to cracking which allowed coolant to leak into the engine. It is interesting to note that Pontiac made sealant available. This should have been recalled and replaced along with an airbag problem that was recalled. The effect of such a crack on a highway is frightening.

Pontiac representative, Miguel Rojas (1-866-79-5700 Ext. 21422) said that he called Los Angeles dealers who informed him that they didn't think there was a problem and based On that information, he refused the claim. Parenthetically, ask the fox if the chickens gave him problems while he was in the henhouse.

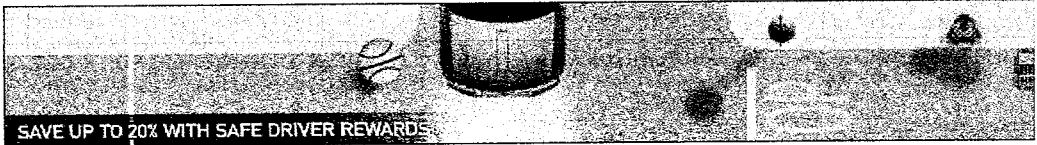
I used to think that Buy American was buying quality. Quality control is obviously a foreign idea.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



[New Cars](#) [Used Cars](#) [Certified Cars](#) [Dealer Directory](#) [Finance & Insurance](#) [Articles and Advice](#)



Used Car Search: [Pontiac](#): [Grand Prix](#): [1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix Reliability](#)

[Print this Page](#)
[Email this Page](#)

Paid Advertis

1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix Reliability

Updated: 07.09.2006



1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix
[More Photos](#)

Price Range: \$2,300-12,600
Class: Midsize Car
Value In Class: 6 (what's this?)
Value In Class Scale

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Low									High

Vehicle History Report

Get the facts on a used Pontiac Grand Prix, before you buy.

ENTER VIN
(what's a VIN)

Grand Prix Reviews:
Pontiac Grand Prix Reviews
2007 Pontiac Grand Prix
2006 Pontiac Grand Prix
1990-96 Pontiac Grand Prix

Find a 1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix near you.

[Review Highlights](#) [Road Test](#) [Reliability](#) [Prices](#) [Specs & Safety](#) [Photos](#) [Classified Listings](#) [Full Review](#)

1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix: Reliability

Trouble Spots

Consumer Guide's® Auto Editors have scoured repair bulletins and questioned mechanics to search for commonly occurring problems for a particular vehicle. In some cases we also give possible manufacturer-suggested solutions. In many instances these trouble spots are Technical Service Bulletins posted by the manufacturer, however, we have our own expert looking at additional vehicle problems.

Brake noise: During moderate application, the rear brakes make a moaning sound. New pads are available to correct the problem. (1998-99)

Check-engine light: Chafed wiring harness near the A/C accumulator can cause check-engine light, no-start, ABS warning light, stalling, or poor drivability. (1999-2001)

Coolant leak: The 3.8-liter V6 may leak coolant into the engine from the intake manifold. A new gasket kit, revised throttle body nuts, and sealing compound is available. Redesigned manifolds are also available in the aftermarket. (1997-2004)

Coolant leak: Coolant loss via plastic intake manifold is corrected by installing upgraded manifold and gaskets plus new PCV kit. (1997-03)

Cruise control: If the cruise control cancels when the wipers are running, the cruise control module and ground wires must be replaced. (1997-98)

THE 100,000 MILE WARRIOR 5-YEAR PO

Is That Car a Le...
Type in your Vehic

Door handles: On white cars, the door handles turn yellow from the lock-cylinder grease. The company will replace the cylinders under warranty and there is a colorless grease available. (1997-99)

Number now to fir history instantly.


Doors: The power door locks fail due to a rubber part breaking on the actuator arm inside the door. (1997)

Enter VIN:

Engine misfire: The 3800 engine develops an ignition miss because the grease in the spark-plug boots causes them to crack. (1997-98)

Don't have a VIN?

Engine noise: Ticking on cold startup may be due to excessive piston pin to bore clearance. (1997-98)

Powered By: 

Engine temperature: Overheating and coolant loss may be due to rough surface on radiator filler neck. Neck should be sanded smooth and cap replaced. (1999-2000)

Poor transmission shift: The transmission may not shift out of third gear because the wires from the torque-converter switch rub and short out on the air-cleaner housing. (1998)

Tail/brake lights: If water leaks into the left taillight housing, it must be replaced with a countermeasure housing. (1997)

Wipers: The windshield wipers may not park at the bottom of the windshield because water gets into the motor assembly and freezes. (1997-98)

Wipers: The wipers may not stop in the correct position due to a problem with the wiper motor bracket. (2002)

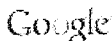
Consumer Guide® Estimated Repair Costs

This table lists costs of likely repairs for comparison with other vehicles. The dollar amount includes the cost of the part(s) and labor (based on \$50 per hour) for the typical repair without extras or add-ons. Like the pricing information, replacement costs can vary widely depending on region. Expect charges at a new-car dealership to be slightly higher.

Item Name	Repair Cost
A/C Compressor	\$460
Alternator	\$220
Automatic Transmission or Transaxle	\$855
Brakes	\$390
Constant Velocity Joints	\$795
Exhaust System	\$425
Radiator	\$215
Shocks and/or Struts	\$910
Timing Chain or Belt	\$220

NHTSA Recall History

- 1997:** Windshield wipers may stop working, due to separation between drive pin and crescent in crank-arm assembly.
- 1997-98:** Faulty power-steering bearings may have been installed on certain vehicles, resulting in difficulty turning the steering wheel. Dealers will inspect and replace all affected parts.
- 1997-99:** When the hazard-flasher switch is used to turn the hazard flashers on or off, the retained accessory power feature can be activated without a key in the ignition.
- 1999:** Driver's airbag-inflator modules could produce excessive internal pressure. In the event of a crash, the increased internal pressure can cause the inflator module to explode.
- 2000:** Front passenger-airbag modules in a few cars have undersized inflator orifice; in a crash, this can cause inflator module to explode.
- 2000:** Some seatbelt assemblies were not properly heat treated and do not pass the load-bearing requirement.
- 2001:** Passenger airbag-inflator modules may have been built without the correct amount of explosive. Airbag explosion or failure could occur.
- 2003:** Right rear brake hose may be too loose, resulting in loss of brake fluid. Dealer will inspect vehicle and tighten affected brake hoses.



Search

 Auto.ConsumerGuide.com  Web[1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix Road Test](#)[1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix Prices](#)

Trade-In Evaluation

Be prepared when selling or trading in your used car. Research how much your car is truly worth with Consumer Guide's free online Trade-In Calculator. Determine your car's real-world value before you go to the dealership.

[Get a Free Online Trade-In Evaluation](#)

Warranty

Has your factory warranty expired? Will it expire soon? If so, you should think about an extended warranty. Protect yourself from the high cost of car repairs. Get A Free Price Quote now from our partner. Financing is available. **Call 800.335.2714 for a free warranty quote.**

What's Under the Hood?

Don't know a catalytic converter from a turbocharger? Wondering what's really going on inside a continuously variable transmission? Whether you're a complete novice or a weekend mechanic, HowStuffWorks is the place to see what's happening under the hood.

[Click here to see](#)

[FAQ](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Site Map](#)[Contact Us](#)[About Us](#)

Copyright© 2005 Consumer Guide and Publications International, Ltd.
Consumer Guide® is a registered trademark of Publications International, Ltd.

THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).