

ATTENTION:

GENERAL MANAGER ☐

PARTS MANAGER ☐

CLAIMS PERSONNEL ☐

SERVICE MANAGER ☐

IMPORTANT - All
Service Personnel
Should Read and
Initial in the boxes
provided, right.

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SUBARU

QUALITY DRIVEN® SERVICE

SERVICE BULLETIN

APPLICABILITY: 2020+ Outback 2.4L
2020-25MY Legacy 2.4L
2019+ Ascent
2022+ WRX

NUMBER: 02-196-26R

DATE: 06/22/26

REVISED: 08/20/26

SUBJECT: White Exhaust Smoke /
Diagnostic and Repair Procedure

INTRODUCTION:

This service bulletin outlines the diagnostic and repair procedure for white smoke emitted from the exhaust after startup. Since the Service Manual does not include this diagnostic with phenomenon for this concern, this service bulletin was developed to outline the diagnostic path and repair methods. If this concern is reported, follow the procedure outlined below.

**CAUTION: VEHICLE SERVICING PERFORMED BY UNTRAINED PERSONS COULD
RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY TO THOSE PERSONS OR TO OTHERS.**

Subaru Service Bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians ONLY. They are written to inform those technicians of conditions that may occur in some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper servicing of the vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, tools, safety instructions, and know-how to do the job correctly and safely. If a condition is described, DO NOT assume that this Service Bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition.

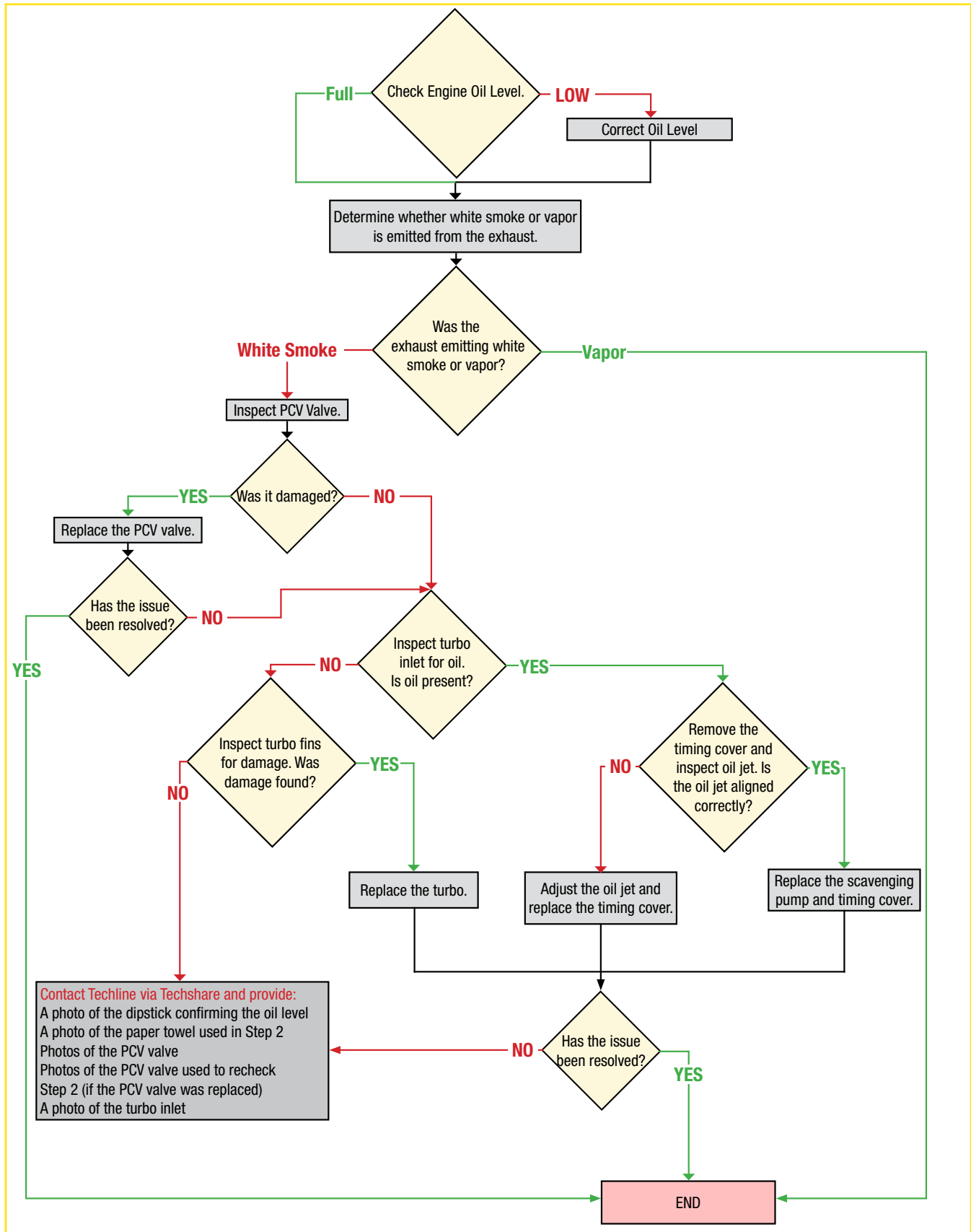
**Subaru of America, Inc. is
ISO 14001 Compliant**

ISO 14001 is the international standard for excellence in Environmental Management Systems. Please recycle or dispose of automotive products in a manner that is friendly to our environment and in accordance with all local, state and federal laws and regulations.

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SERVICE PROCEDURE / INFORMATION:

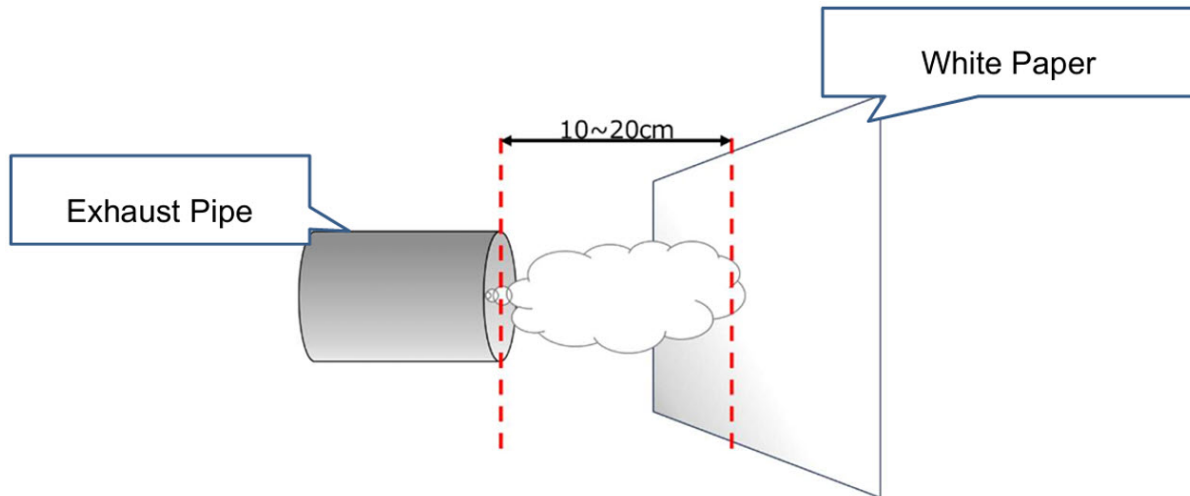
REMINDER: Customer satisfaction and retention start with performing quality repairs.



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Step 1: Check engine oil level. Adjust the oil to the correct level. Proceed to step 2.

Step 2: Determine whether white smoke or vapor is being emitted from the exhaust. Mount a paper towel 4-8 inches (10-20cm) from the exhaust. Start the engine and let it idle for 30 seconds. Turn the engine off and wait for the paper towel to dry.



If yellow or brown stains appear on the paper towel, continue to the next diagnostic step. If no stains are present on the paper towel, only vapor was emitted from the tailpipe.

Note: If you are validating a repair in Step 2, test drive the vehicle for five minutes beforehand to clear any residual oil from the exhaust system.

Step 3: Remove the PCV valve. Inspect the PCV valve for damage and ensure it moves freely.

If damage is found or the valve is seized, replace the valve and hose. Then repeat step 2 to confirm the issue has been resolved before proceeding.

If no damage is found, proceed to step 4.

Step 4: Check the turbo inlet for oil. See examples below:

If oil is found, proceed to **Step 6**.

If no oil is found, proceed to **Step 5**.



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Step 5: Inspect the turbo fins for damage.

If the turbo fins have damaged, replace the turbo charger assembly.

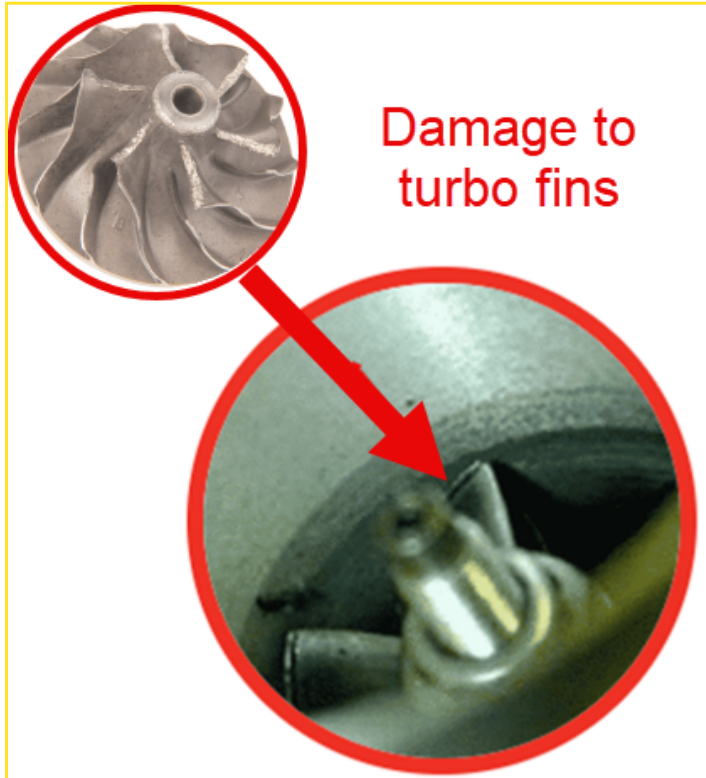
If no damage to the turbo is found, contact Techline via TechShare and provide the following items:

1. A photo of the dipstick confirming the oil level from Step 1
2. A photo of the paper towel used in Step 2
3. Photos of the PCV valve
4. Photos of the paper towel used to recheck Step 2 (if the PCV valve was replaced)
5. A photo of the turbo inlet

No damage to turbo fins



Damage to
turbo fins



NOTE: Minor radial movement of the turbocharger shaft is normal.

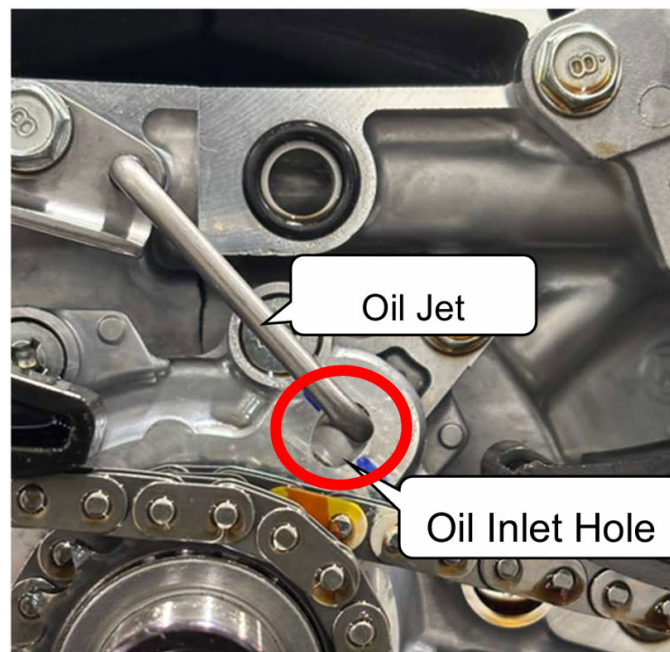
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Step 6: Remove the timing cover and inspect the oil jet alignment.

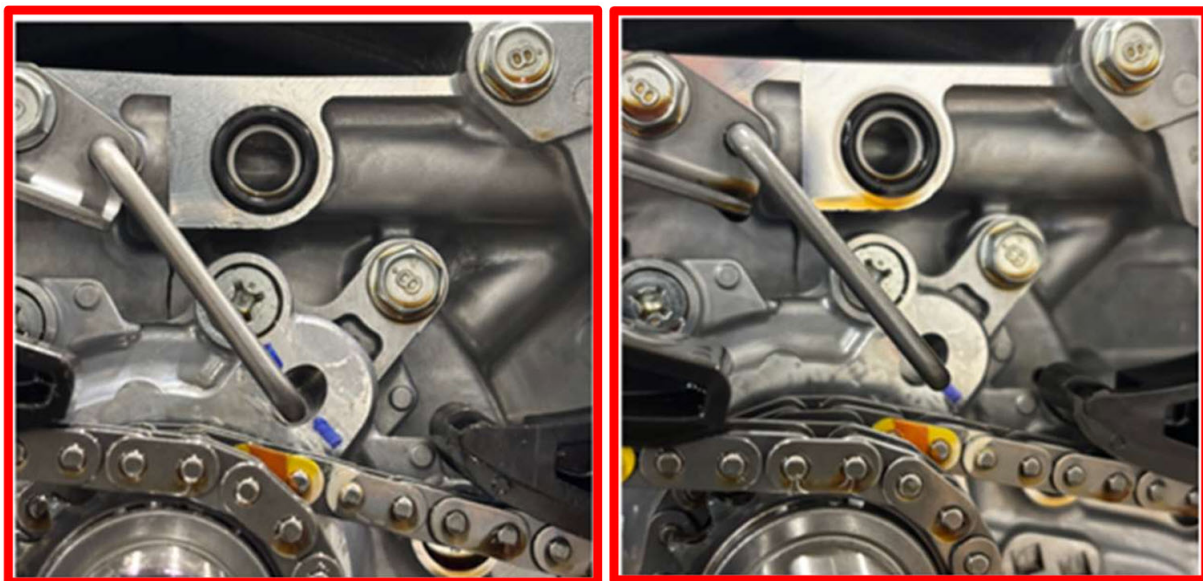
If the oil jet is directed at the lower half of the oil inlet hole, loosen the bolt securing the oil jet and adjust it so it is directed toward the upper half of the scavenge pump oil inlet, as shown below. Torque the jet bolt while supporting the jet tip in the correct position. Replace the timing cover and any one-time-use parts with new ones.

If the oil jet is already directed toward the upper half of the scavenge pump oil inlet, replace the scavenge pump and timing cover, along with any one-time-use parts.

CAUTION: Do not bend the oil jet, as this will cause damage.



Examples of misaligned jets:



Note: If replacement of the scavenging pump is necessary, ensure the oil jet remains directed at the upper half of the scavenging pump. Failure to do so will cause white smoke.

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WARRANTY / CLAIM INFORMATION:

For vehicles within the Basic New Car Limited, this repair may be submitted using the following claim information:

Warranty Type	Labor Description	Labor Operation #	Labor Time	Fail Code	Skill Level
WC	WHITE EXHAUST DIAGNOSTIC AND INSPECTION	456186	0.8H	DGR-85	SG 1 / SL 3
WC	WHITE EXHAUST DIAGNOSTIC AND INSPECTION/OIL LEVEL ADJUSTMENT	456286	1.1H	AFU-88	SG 1 / SL 3

If replacing any parts please use Labor Time Guide for labor operations and times to submit claim.

The Skill Group and Skill Level listed in this bulletin define the qualifications recommended for this work. Repairs should be dispatched to a technician who is trained at the specified level. For more information on Labor Operation Skill Group/Level assignments, [click here to access the Gear Reduction](#). To request a Skill Group/Skill Level change, [fill out this form](#).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- SOA strongly discourages the printing and/or local storage of service information, as previously released information and electronic publications may be updated at any time.
- Always check for any open recalls or campaigns anytime a vehicle is in for servicing.
- Always refer to STIS for the latest service information before performing any repairs.