

Detail Of The Vehicle Identification Numbers

Each character or digit has a particular purpose.

They are as follows:

1	G	1	J	F	2	7	W	8	G	J	1	7	8	2	2	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

- The first character vehicle identification number (VIN) serial number identifies the country from which the vehicle was manufactured.

Country Manufactured
Manufacturer
Vehicle Type
Vehicle Features
Accuracy Check Digit
Model Year
Production Plant
Sequential Number
- First vehicle identification number digit: U.S.A.(1 or 4), Canada (2), Mexico (3), Japan (J), Korea (K), England (S), Germany (W), Italy (Z)
- Second vehicle identification number digit specifies the manufacturer. Audi (A), BMW (B), Buick (4), Cadillac (6), Chevrolet (1), Chrysler (C), Dodge (B), Ford (F), GM Canada (7), General Motors (G), Honda (H), Jaguar (A), Lincoln (L), Mercedes Benz (D), Mercury (M), Nissan (N), Oldsmobile (3), Pontiac (2 or 5), Plymouth (P), Saturn (8), Toyota (T), Volvo (V).
- Third vehicle identification number digit indicates the vehicle type or manufacturing division.
- Fourth through eighth vehicle identification number digit reveals the vehicle features such as body style, engine type, model, series, etc.
- The ninth vehicle identification number digit is a VIN accuracy check digit, verifying the previous VIN numbers. This is how the check digit works

STEP 1

Assign to each number in the VIN its actual mathematical value and assign to each letter the value specified for it in the following chart:

ASSIGNED VALUES:

A=1 G=7 P=7 X=7

B=2 H=8 R=9 Y=8

C=3 J=1 S=2 Z=9

D=4 K=2 T=3

E=5 M=3 U=4

F=6 N=4 V=5

STEP 2

Multiply the assigned value for each character in the VIN by the position weight factor specified in the following chart:

VIN POSITION AND WEIGHT FACTOR:

1st = 8 10th = 9

2nd = 7 11th = 8

3rd = 6 12th = 7

4th = 5 13th = 6

5th = 4 14th = 5

6th = 3 15th = 4

7th = 2 16th = 3

8th = 10 17th = 2

9th = check digit

STEP 3

Add the products from steps 1 and 2 and divide the total by 11.

STEP 4

The numerical remainder is the check digit which would appear in the 9th position in the VIN. If the remainder is 10, then the letter "X" is used for the check digit.

- Tenth vehicle identification number digit tells the model year. 1980(A), 1981(B), 1982(C), 1983(D), 1984(E), 1985(F), 1986(G), 1987(H), 1988 (J), 1989 (K), 1990 (L), 1991 (M), 1992 (N), 1993 (P), 1994 (R), 1995 (S), 1996 (T), 1997(V), 1998 (W), 1999 (X), 2000 (Y)-----2001(1), 2002 (2), 2003 (3), 2004(4), 2005(5), 2006(6), 2007(7), 2008(8), 2009(9)

Note: Tenth vehicle identification number digit tells the model year that will repeat after 30 years.

- Eleventh vehicle identification number digit reveals the assembly plant for the vehicle.
- The twelfth to seventeenth vehicle identification number digits indicate the sequence of the vehicle for production as it rolled off the manufacturer's assembly line.

Note: Common locations of the vehicle identification number (VIN) vary but the following are places to look:

- Firewall of the vehicle
- Left hand inner wheel arch
- Steering column
- Radiator Support Bracket
- Dash by windshield
- Driver's door or post on passenger side
- Guarantee & Maintenance Book (Vehicle documents)
- Machined Pad on front of engine
- Component parts as listed above –e.g. engine, frame, etc.

Later model years - most common areas of VIN:

- Left instrumentation/dash plate by window
- Driver's door or post
- Firewall