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How To..... Clean a Throttle Body

Astra-Sport Disclaimer - Please note that this is a guide only and Astra-Sport take **NO** responsibility for any damaged caused to yourself or vehicle whilst using this guide. If you are unsure how to do something leave it to the professionals. Your Insurance and warranty might be invalidated if this modification is done.

Note – this how to was written for an X18XE1 engine, but the process is similar for all other engines

Why clean it?

If your car has trouble idling when pulling up to junction etc then most of the time a dirty/clogged throttle body will be the cause.

When to clean it?

It is good practice to do this every time you service your car, especially if you do a lot of miles or drive in traffic a lot.

Tools:

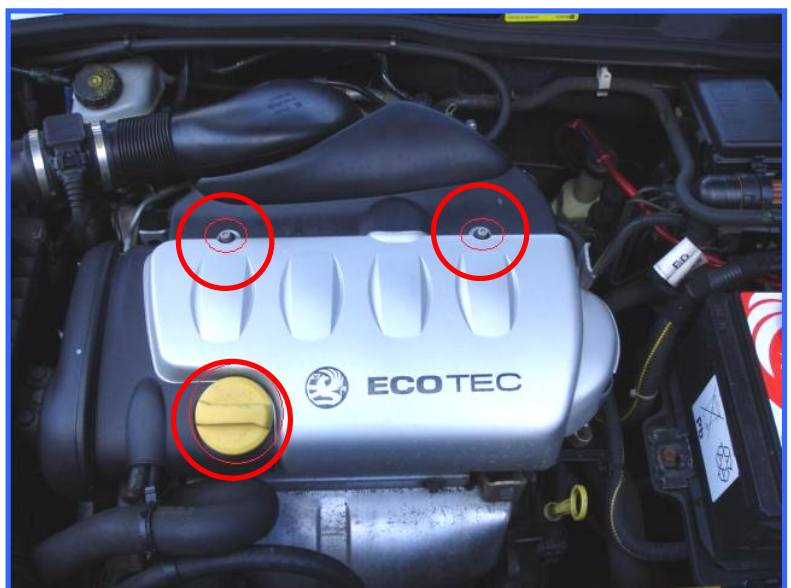
- Flat bladed Screw Driver or 7mm Socket (depending on jubilee clip type)
- 10mm spanner
- T30 Torx bit
- Clean Cloth
- Carb Cleaner or similar product

Step 1

With the engine cold, start by removing the negative lead from the battery using the 10mm spanner, (this is good practice for all car engine and electrical work), and remember to remove the ignition key first and **do not** replace it until the work is finished.

Next, remove the engine cover by removing the two T30 Torx Screws holding the top of the engine cover down. Then remove the oil filler cap and pull the engine cover from the rear towards you. Replace the oil filler cap immediately.

This gives good access to the throttle body.



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Step 2

Use the flat bladed screw driver, or 7mm socket, undo the jubilee clip securing the air feed hose to the throttle body.



Step 3

Then remove the air hose from the Throttle body and move it out the way, taking care not to damage the hose or put any strain on the harness to the AFM. If in doubt, unplug the AFM!!

Now you can get at the inside of the throttle body - As you can see they get very messy!!!

When the engine is on tick over, air is drawn in through a small gap at the edge of the butterfly valve (the brass circle). If the small gap becomes blocked by build up of carbon and dirt etc then the engine can't breathe on tick over, so it tries to stall!



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Step 4

Using the carb cleaner and a clean lint-free rag, carefully clean all the mess out, pull open the butterfly very gently - especially ones which are drive-by-wire as this works via an electric motor.

Press down the side nearest to you and pull up the side furthest from you as shown below.

Clean in and around the throttle body and the rim of the butterfly. **MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT PUSH ANY DIRT DOWN INTO THE MANIFOLD!**

If the Throttle Body is particularly dirty, it is advisable to remove it and clean it off the car



When you've finished it should look nice and clean like this!

Reassemble the air hose feed and engine cover. Reconnect the battery, and reprogram any radio codes/clock etc

You should notice straight away the throttle response.



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