

DIY Servicing



**2001 Toyota RAV4
VVTi GX Mk2**

Refresh your RAV4

The second-generation RAV4 brought Toyota's compact crossover SUV into the 21st century. Being quite old by modern standards, it's refreshingly straightforward to look after, says **Richard Gunn**.

The fifth-generation of Toyota's RAV4 went on sale in 2018, but there are still plenty of the previous series on Britain's roads. The model may have grown quite substantially since its first incarnation in the previous millennium, when it was more a lifestyle vehicle than a serious SUV, especially in convertible form, but the nameplate is now commemorating a quarter-of-a-century of success.

When the second-generation model, codenamed XA20, went on sale in summer 2000, it was a rather more mature SUV than its predecessor. Gone was the soft-top option, with three- and five-door variants being the two sole configurations. Trim levels in the UK were initially NV (which was front-wheel drive only) followed by NRG, GX

Richard says

▶ Although RAV4s were well built, even the youngest second-generation model will now be getting on for 15 years old. Corrosion is a distinct possibility, especially underneath, and it's even more likely if the vehicle was used off-road. Real grot spots are towards the rear of the car, around the sills. Other vulnerable areas include the rear springs and anti-roll bar bushes – one of the latter had split on this car.



RICHARD GUNN
Special Contributor



Overall difficulty rating



Thanks to West Street Garage in Stamford, Lincolnshire for its help with this article. For further details, telephone 01780 762196 or visit weststreetgarage.com

Equipment required

Jack > axle stands > oil container/tray > sockets and spanners > flat-head and crosshead screwdrivers > spark plug socket > tyre tread checker > wheel brace > antifreeze hydrometer > electronic brake/clutch fluid strength checker > wire brush > abrasive paper > copper grease > general purpose grease > spray grease > tyre pump > torch > torque wrench > oil filter strap or tool > rags for cleaning > disposable gloves.

and VX (permanent four-wheel drive with differing levels of equipment). Our car here is a 2.0-litre petrol GX – while a 1.8 engine was available, it only came with the NV model. A diesel was also part of the line-up, in 2.0-litre form.

The RAV4 doesn't have many of the complications, electronic or otherwise,

that are starting to make DIY servicing more and more tricky. About the most complicated thing is trying to get at the spark plugs, unhelpfully placed under the air filter housing, with one tucked beneath a bracket that needs to be unscrewed. Servicing at home shouldn't take more than a few hours with the right equipment.

Underbonnet layout

