



'Ask Hanip'

Hi, I've been driving my 2004 Toyota Vios trouble free up till the present but recently I've heard nightmare stories about timing belts snapping while a car is in operation and this has gotten me immensely worried.

I was actually wondering if you could advise me on how do I perform a check on my Vios' timing belt as I have heard from others that you can actually feel the so-called teeth of the belt to see if its been worn out. Are there any other things that I should look out for if my car's timing

belt is about to give way? ADAM TAN

Well the easiest way to check a timing belt is to just press gently on the belt and it should feel springy like rubber, a clear indication to change your belt is when the surface feels dry or cracked up. You



should also visually scan through the belt surface to make sure there are no cracks. Of course to be precise, you should take your car to an experienced workshop and have the mechanic take out timing belt sprocket cover and visually see the condition of the belt, if it is faded or there are any oil leakages around the area, its time to change a new one as soon as possible. This will also include changing the oil seals and water pump. If your car has already done more than 100, 000km, do replace the tensioner and idling bearings.

