

Checking Your Car's Engine Oil Level

Before checking:

1. Ensure the car is parked on flat land.
2. Ensure the car engine is cold. If you have just driven, the engine will be too hot.
3. Ensure you have some kitchen roll or paper towel to clean the dipstick.
4. Ensure you know where to find your bonnet release lever. It is usually found in the driver or passenger footwell.

Each car is slightly different when it comes to checking oil. Usually, you would check the oil level using an oil dipstick which would be found under the bonnet and attached to the engine. The dipstick literally dips into the engine and measures the oil level at the bottom of the engine as gravity makes the oil rest here when the car is not running.

Some newer cars may not have a dipstick, and you may need to check the oil using your menu system inside the car.

Method

Find the bonnet release lever inside the car.

Passenger or driver footwell.



In this car, it is found in the passenger footwell under the glove compartment.

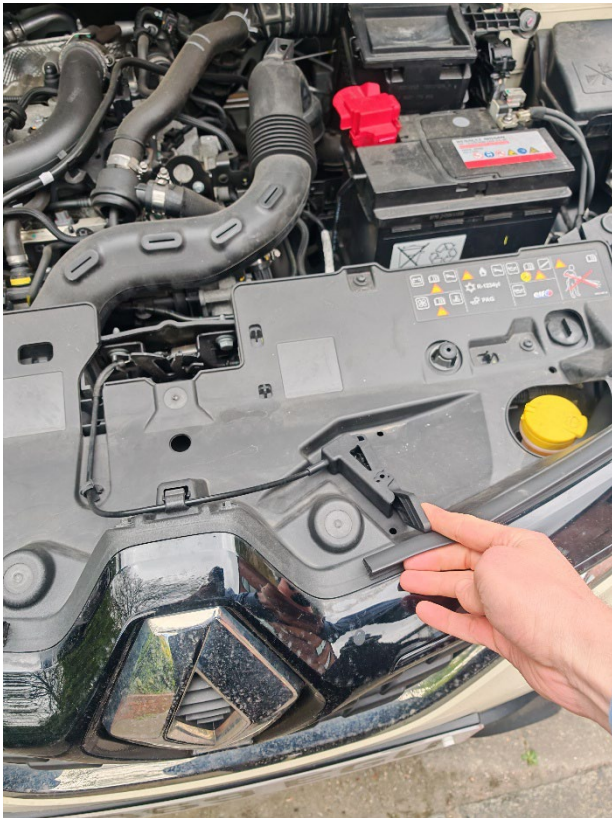


Pull this lever towards you and you should hear the bonnet click open. If this does not work, it may be that you have an issue with your lever.

The bonnet should appear slightly open if it has unlatched successfully.

As you can see from this picture, there is a slight opening at the opening end of the bonnet compared to usual.

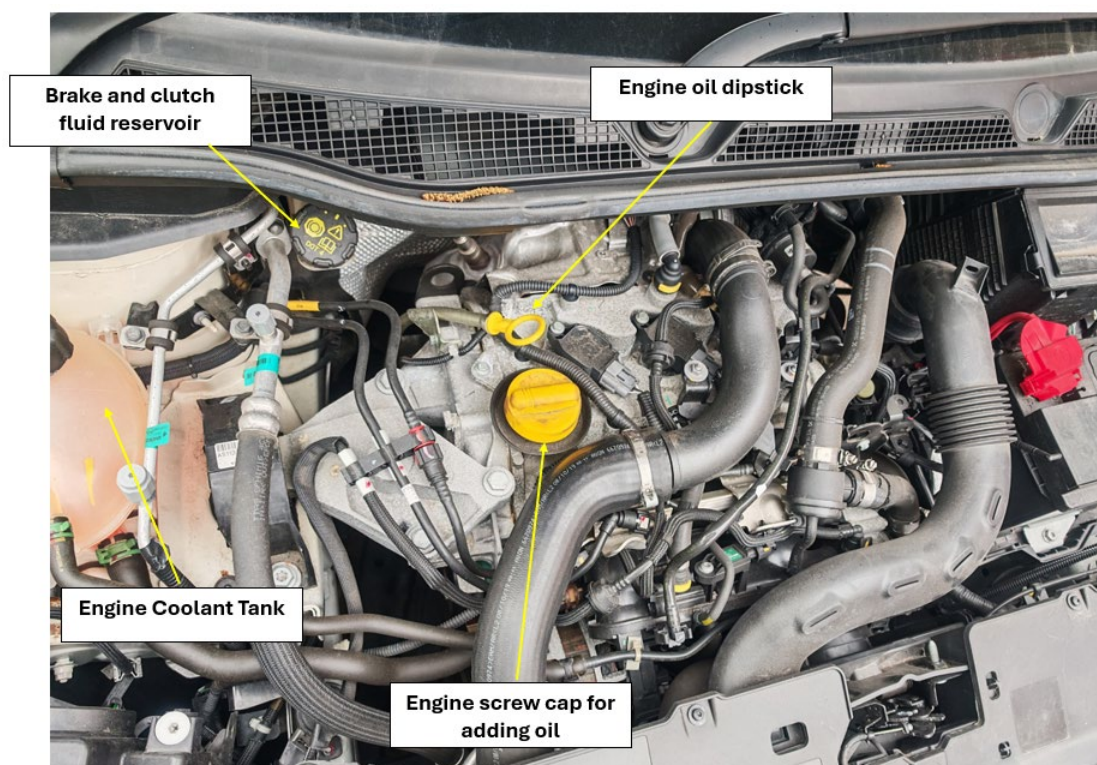
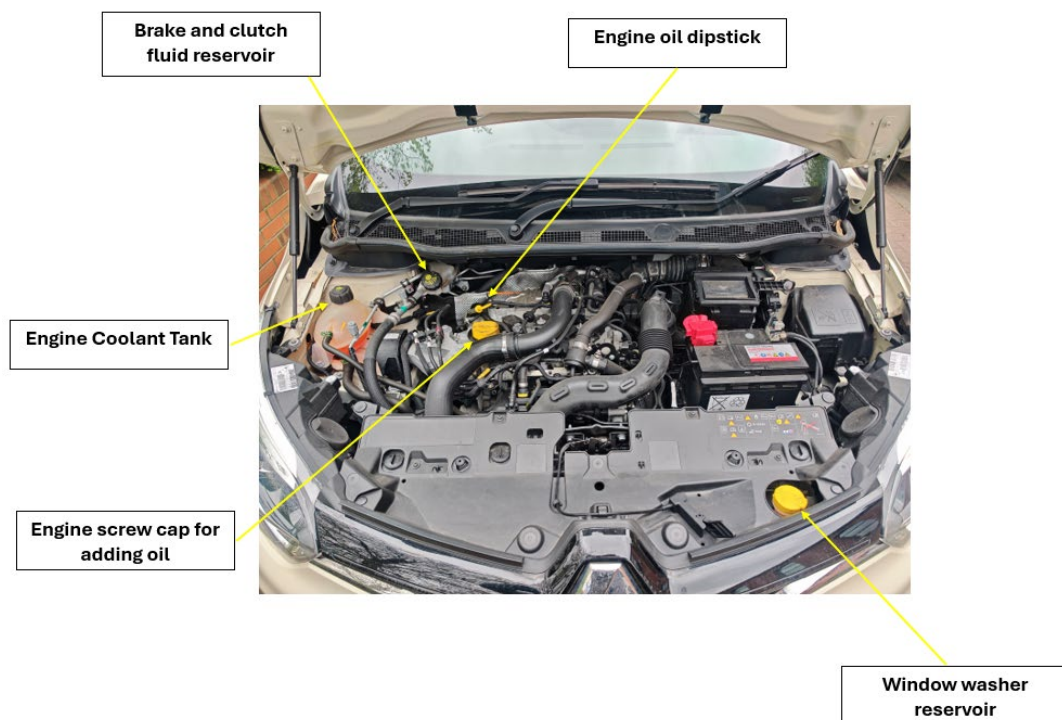
Most cars have a lever which you have to find with your fingers inside the bonnet gap and you may have to push this to the left, right or pull. Sometimes, you may have a small tab which pops out which you have to pull and then lift the bonnet.



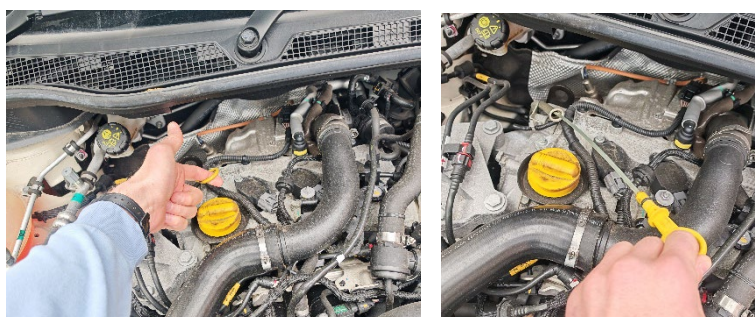
On this Renault, the lever is here. Push it to the left and lift the bonnet. The bonnet will either stay up on its own or there will be a little prop which you will have to find and prop the bonnet up.



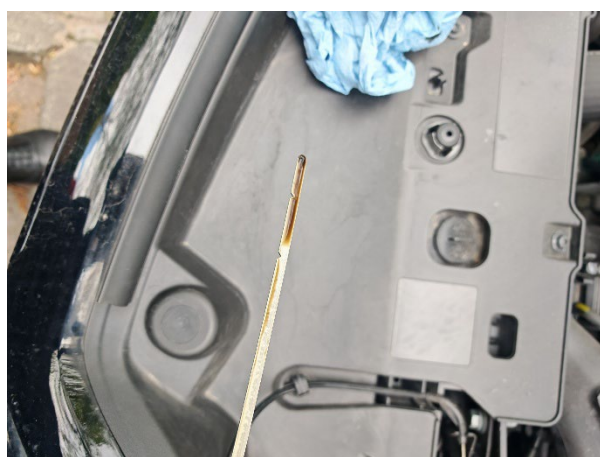
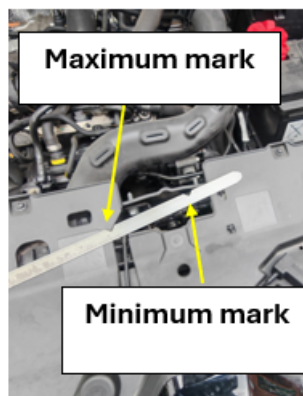
Under the bonnet, usually the parts which require servicing or regular checks are coloured yellow.



The next pictures show the steps to check the oil level using the dipstick.

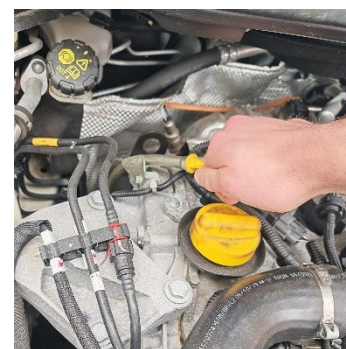


With a paper towel, clean off the oil on the dipstick. You should be able to see a min and max line or notch on your dipstick. Each dipstick is different.



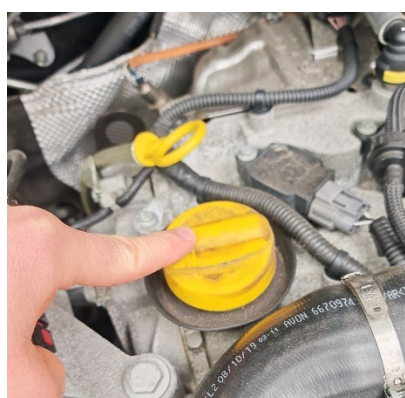
Once clean, replace the dipstick fully into its tube and pull it out. You should be able to see where the oil level is. The ideal oil level will be just under the maximum notch. This picture to the left is a great example of a good level of oil in the engine.

Return the dipstick back into its slot and make sure it is fully pushed back in.



If it is too low, you need to add the right type of oil into your engine. Remove the screw cap on the top of your engine like the one below.

Add fresh, clean oil in small amounts and keep checking the oil level using the dipstick to ensure you

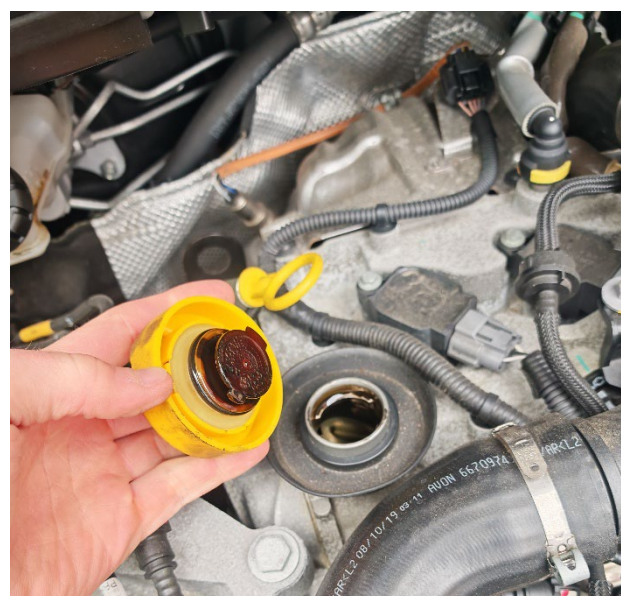


do not overfill your engine.

You can damage your engine if you add too much oil.

If there is a milky colour on the bottom of the cap, you may need to take your car to the garage as it may have engine coolant in the oil.

Make sure you replace the screw cap securely when finished.



You shouldn't run your engine with the minimum amount of oil in it.

You shouldn't wait for the oil light to come on before you check.

If you're unsure, go to a garage, Halfords or someone you trust for help.

Oil lubricates the moving parts in the engine. Without the right amount of the correct oil, permanent damage can occur and even engine failure.