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Dodge Ram Pickup

1998 Dodge Ram Pickup Owner's Manual

Your Comprehensive Guide to Vehicle Operation and Maintenance

Introduction

This owner's manual provides detailed information regarding the operation, maintenance, and care of your 1998 Dodge Ram Pickup. Familiarizing yourself with the contents of this manual will help ensure safe and efficient use of your vehicle and prolong its lifespan. Please read it thoroughly and keep it in your vehicle for future reference.

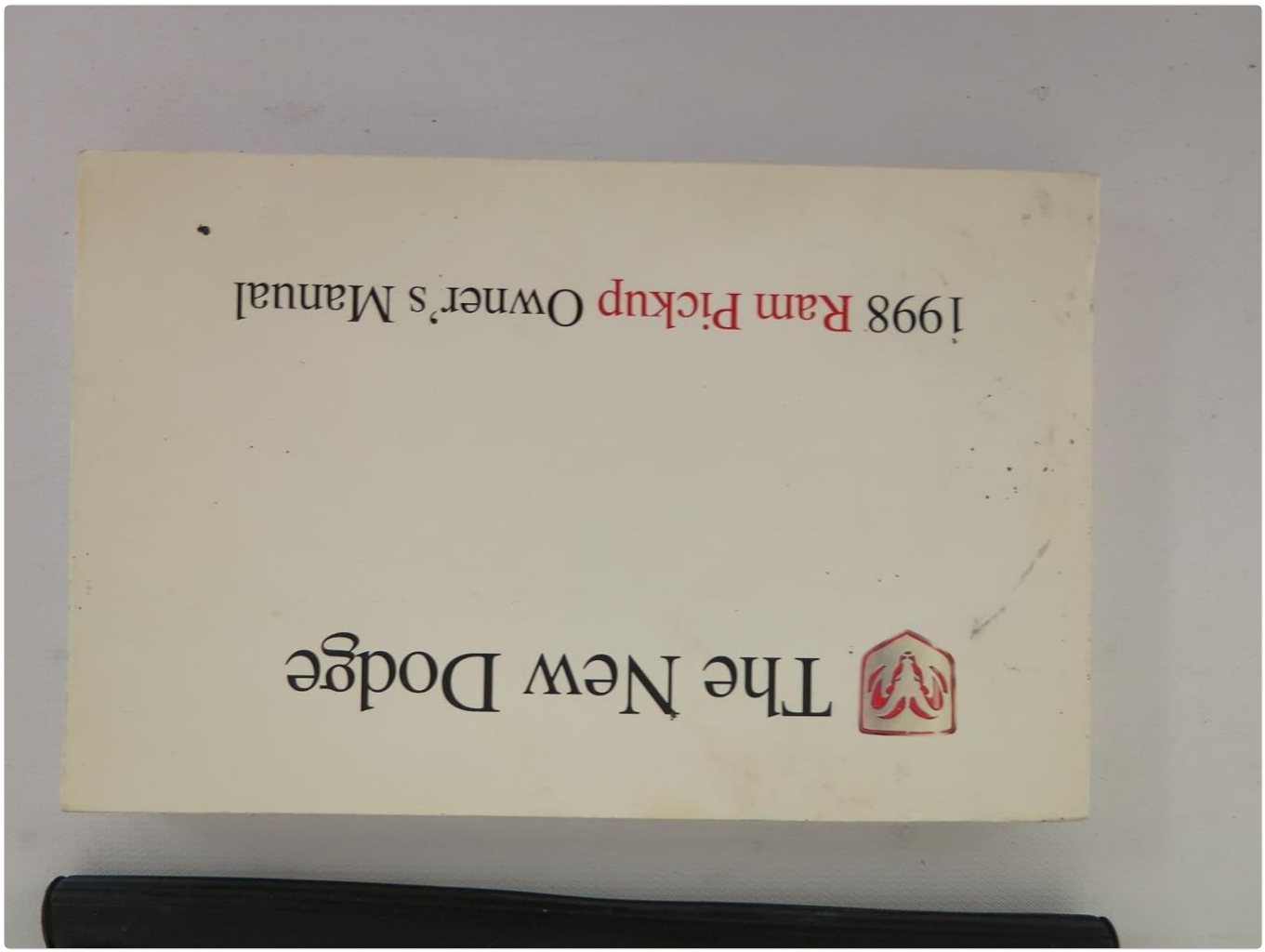


Image: Front cover of the official 1998 Dodge Ram Pickup Owner's Manual, displaying the title and Dodge logo.

Setup and Getting Started

Familiarizing Yourself with Your Vehicle

Before operating your Dodge Ram Pickup, take time to locate and understand the function of all controls, indicators, and features. This includes the steering wheel controls, dashboard gauges, climate control system, and lighting controls.

Key and Lock Systems

- **Ignition Key:** Used to start the engine and operate the ignition switch.
- **Door Locks:** Manual or power door locks secure the vehicle. Ensure all doors are properly latched before driving.

Operating Your Vehicle

Starting the Engine

1. Ensure the transmission is in PARK (P) for automatic or NEUTRAL (N) for manual.
2. Press the brake pedal firmly.
3. Insert the key into the ignition and turn it to the START position. Release the key once the engine starts.

Driving Controls

- **Transmission:** Select the appropriate gear for driving conditions. Refer to the gear selector markings.
- **Brakes:** Apply steady pressure to the brake pedal to slow or stop the vehicle.
- **Steering:** Maintain a firm grip on the steering wheel and steer smoothly.

Dashboard Indicators and Gauges

Monitor the instrument cluster for important information such as vehicle speed, engine RPM, fuel level, engine temperature, and warning lights. Consult the manual for specific meanings of each indicator.

Climate Control

Use the climate control system to adjust temperature, fan speed, and air distribution within the cabin for comfort.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is crucial for the performance, safety, and longevity of your Dodge Ram Pickup.

Scheduled Maintenance

Refer to the maintenance schedule section in your original owner's manual for recommended service intervals for oil

changes, filter replacements, fluid checks, and inspections.

Fluid Checks

- **Engine Oil:** Check oil level regularly using the dipstick. Add oil as needed.
- **Coolant:** Ensure coolant level is between MIN and MAX marks when the engine is cool.
- **Brake Fluid:** Check brake fluid level in the reservoir. Low levels may indicate a problem.
- **Power Steering Fluid:** Verify fluid level is within the recommended range.

Tire Care

- **Tire Pressure:** Check tire pressure monthly, including the spare. Refer to the tire placard on the driver's door jamb for correct pressures.
- **Tire Rotation:** Rotate tires at recommended intervals to ensure even wear.

Battery Maintenance

Keep battery terminals clean and free of corrosion. Ensure battery hold-downs are secure. If the battery requires service, consult a qualified technician.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your vehicle.

Engine Will Not Start

- Check if the battery is charged and terminals are clean.
- Ensure the transmission is in PARK or NEUTRAL.
- Verify there is sufficient fuel in the tank.

Warning Lights Illuminated

If a warning light illuminates on your dashboard, consult the original owner's manual immediately to understand its meaning and the recommended course of action. Do not ignore warning lights.

Overheating Engine

If the engine temperature gauge indicates overheating, safely pull over, turn off the engine, and allow it to cool. Do not open the radiator cap when the engine is hot. Seek professional assistance if the issue persists.

Specifications

Below are general specifications for the 1998 Dodge Ram Pickup. Specific details may vary based on trim level and options.

Category	Detail
Engine Options	V6, V8 (various displacements)
Transmission	Manual or Automatic
Fuel Type	Unleaded Gasoline
Tire Size	Varies by model and trim
Fuel Tank Capacity	Varies by wheelbase and configuration

Warranty Information

Your 1998 Dodge Ram Pickup was sold with a limited warranty. Details regarding coverage, duration, and exclusions are provided in a separate warranty booklet that accompanied your vehicle at the time of purchase. Please refer to that document for complete warranty terms and conditions. Keep all service records as they may be required for warranty claims.

Support and Additional Resources

For further assistance, service, or genuine Mopar parts, please contact your authorized Dodge dealership. They have trained technicians and specialized equipment to service your vehicle correctly.
You can also refer to the official Dodge website for general information, although specific 1998 model year resources may be limited online.



Image: Black vinyl case designed to hold the owner's manual and other vehicle documents, often found in the glove compartment.

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