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Volkswagen Golf, Golf GTI, Golf R

2018 Volkswagen Golf, Golf GTI, Golf R Owner's Manual

Your comprehensive guide to operating and maintaining your Volkswagen vehicle.

Introduction

This owner's manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, and care of your 2018 Volkswagen Golf, Golf GTI, or Golf R. Please read this manual thoroughly to familiarize yourself with your vehicle's features, controls, and safety systems. Keep this manual in your vehicle for future reference.



Image: Front cover of the official owner's manual for the 2018 Volkswagen Golf series.

1. Initial Setup and Familiarization

1.1 Dashboard Overview

Familiarize yourself with the instrument cluster, warning lights, and control panel. Key indicators include the speedometer, tachometer, fuel gauge, and engine temperature gauge. Consult the detailed diagrams in your physical manual for precise locations.

1.2 Seat and Steering Wheel Adjustment

Before driving, adjust your seat for optimal comfort and control. Ensure you can comfortably reach the pedals and have a clear view of the road. Adjust the steering wheel height and reach to a comfortable position.

- **Seat Adjustment:** Use the levers or electric controls located on the side of the seat.
- **Steering Wheel:** Pull the lever under the steering column to unlock, adjust, and then push the lever back to lock.

2. Operating Your Vehicle

2.1 Starting and Stopping the Engine

To start the engine, ensure the vehicle is in Park (P) or Neutral (N) for automatic transmissions, or the clutch pedal is fully depressed for manual transmissions. Insert the key and turn to the START position, or press the START/STOP button while pressing the brake pedal.
To stop the engine, shift to Park (P) or Neutral (N), apply the parking brake, and turn the key to the OFF position or press the START/STOP button.

2.2 Driving Modes (Golf GTI/R)

Your vehicle may be equipped with selectable driving modes that adjust engine response, transmission shift points, steering feel, and suspension settings. Common modes include:

- **Normal:** Balanced performance for everyday driving.
- **Sport:** Enhanced throttle response, firmer steering, and sportier transmission shifts.
- **Eco:** Optimized for fuel efficiency.
- **Individual:** Allows customization of various vehicle parameters.

Select modes using the dedicated button or infotainment system menu.

2.3 Safety Features

Your Volkswagen is equipped with numerous safety features. Always ensure all occupants wear seatbelts. Familiarize yourself with:

- **Airbag System:** Located in various positions throughout the cabin.
- **Anti-lock Braking System (ABS):** Prevents wheel lock-up during hard braking.
- **Electronic Stability Control (ESC):** Helps maintain vehicle control during critical maneuvers.
- **Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS):** Alerts you to low tire pressure.

3. Maintenance and Care

3.1 Regular Checks

Perform the following checks regularly to ensure optimal vehicle performance and safety:

- **Engine Oil Level:** Check monthly, or before long trips. Refer to the dipstick for proper levels.
- **Coolant Level:** Check when the engine is cold. Maintain between MIN and MAX marks.
- **Brake Fluid Level:** Check periodically. If low, consult a qualified service technician.
- **Windshield Washer Fluid:** Keep topped up for clear visibility.
- **Tire Pressure:** Check weekly, including the spare. Refer to the placard on the driver's door jamb for recommended pressures.

3.2 Scheduled Maintenance

Adhere to the manufacturer's recommended service schedule outlined in your service booklet. Regular maintenance by an authorized Volkswagen service center is crucial for vehicle longevity and warranty validity.

3.3 Cleaning and Detailing

Regularly wash your vehicle to protect the paint finish. Use appropriate cleaning products for interior surfaces. Avoid harsh chemicals that can damage materials.

4. Troubleshooting Common Issues

4.1 Warning Lights

If a warning light illuminates on your dashboard, consult your manual immediately to understand its meaning and recommended action. Some common lights include:

- **Check Engine Light:** Indicates an issue with the engine or emissions system.
- **Oil Pressure Warning:** Stop the vehicle safely and turn off the engine immediately.
- **Brake System Warning:** Indicates a problem with the braking system.
- **Battery Warning:** Suggests an issue with the charging system.

4.2 Engine Not Starting

If the engine does not start, check the following:

- Ensure the gear selector is in Park (P) or Neutral (N).
- Check the battery terminals for corrosion or looseness.
- Verify there is sufficient fuel in the tank.
- If the issue persists, it may indicate a starter motor or electrical problem, requiring professional assistance.

5. Specifications

Below are general specifications for the 2018 Volkswagen Golf series. Specific details may vary by model (Golf, Golf GTI, Golf R) and trim level. Refer to your vehicle's specific documentation for precise figures.

Feature	Typical Range / Description
Engine Type	Inline 4-cylinder, Turbocharged (TSI)
Fuel Type	Unleaded Gasoline (Premium recommended for GTI/R)
Transmission	Manual or Automatic (DSG)
Seating Capacity	5 Passengers
Fuel Tank Capacity	Approx. 13.2 - 14.5 US Gallons
Tire Size	Varies by model and trim (e.g., 205/55R16, 225/40R18)

6. Warranty Information

Your 2018 Volkswagen vehicle is covered by a limited warranty. Details regarding coverage period, terms, and conditions are provided in a separate warranty booklet supplied with your vehicle. Please refer to that document for complete information. Any modifications to the vehicle or use of non-approved parts may void your warranty.

7. Customer Support

For further assistance, service appointments, or genuine Volkswagen parts, please contact your authorized Volkswagen

dealer. You can also visit the official Volkswagen website for additional resources, FAQs, and contact information.
Volkswagen Official Website: www.vw.com
Roadside Assistance: Refer to your warranty booklet or vehicle documentation for roadside assistance contact details.

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