

Audi RS3 8V

2015-2020 · 2.5 TFSI EA855 5-cylinder turbo (362-400 hp) · DQ500 7-speed S tronic · quattro AWD

Est. annual maintenance cost: €1,250-2,250

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: Is it pre-facelift (CZGB, 2015-2017) or facelift (DAZA, 2017+)? The facelift added dual injection, reducing carbon buildup, and came with revised suspension mounts.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (VIN check)

Contact Audi with the VIN to confirm the fuel lift pump recall (2015-2017 cars, causes stalling at low speed) and Takata airbag recall have been completed.

Service records and DQ500 history

Ask for full service records. Look specifically for DQ500 gearbox oil changes (should be every 40,000 km) and Haldex fluid changes (every 20,000 km).

Modification and tuning history

Ask the seller directly about ECU remaps, aftermarket downpipes, or intercooler upgrades. Even a Stage 1 tune adds significant stress to the DQ500 clutch packs and bevel box.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

OEM size is 235/35R19. Check the inner edges of the front tyres closely, as the RS3 is known for accelerated inner-edge wear. Uneven wear can point to skipped alignments.

Cold engine startup

Start the engine completely cold. Listen for any timing chain rattle in the first 5-10 seconds and for metallic rattling from the rear exhaust at idle, which points to worn exhaust flap actuators.

Damper condition

Look at each damper body for oil weeping or wet residue. If the car has magnetic ride (optional), leaks typically appear after 50,000-80,000 km. Ask the seller which suspension it has.

Underbody and bevel box area

Glance under the front of the car near the propshaft area for oil drips. Fresh oil near the bevel box (transfer case) can point to seal degradation, especially on launched or tuned cars.

DURING THE DRIVE

DQ500 gearbox behaviour

Drive in stop-and-go for at least 10 minutes. Feel for harsh shifts, delayed gear engagement, or hesitation at low speed. Then accelerate firmly through several gears to check for slip.

AWD engagement

On a wet or loose surface, accelerate from a standstill. The car should pull cleanly without front-wheel spin. Unexpected front-wheel-only wheelspin can point to a failed Haldex pump.

Throttle response and idle quality

Note any hesitation on light throttle or rough idle once the engine is warm. These are typical signs of carbon buildup on the intake valves, especially on pre-facelift cars without port injection.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Performance compact with the 2.5 TFSI five-cylinder, 2015-2020. The engine itself is robust, but the DQ500 gearbox, Haldex AWD pump, and carbon buildup need regular attention.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

Carbon buildup

Walnut blasting every 50,000-80,000 km
€600-1,500

DQ500 mechatronics

Harsh shifts, limp mode at 60-120k km
€1,500-4,000

Haldex AWD pump

Filter clogs silently, pump fails
€800-2,500

Magnetic ride dampers

Oil leaks after 50,000-80,000 km
€1,500-4,000

Fuel lift pump (2015-2017)

Stalling at low speed, recall exists
€400-800

