

Kia Ceed 1.0 T-GDI

2018-present · 1.0 T-GDI (120 hp) Kappa 3-cylinder turbocharged petrol

Est. annual maintenance cost: €600-1,150

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: Check if the tandem pump recall (221048) was completed on 2018-2020 cars. After that, focus on the cold start rattle duration to gauge timing chain health.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Recall status (tandem pump)

Cars built October 2018 to October 2020 are covered by recall 221048 for a brake vacuum pump defect. Contact Kia with the VIN to confirm this was completed before visiting.

Service records and warranty

Kia's 7-year warranty requires dealer or authorised servicing. Ask for stamped service book or digital records. Oil changes should be every 15,000 km or 12 months.

Driving pattern history

Ask the seller how the car was mainly used. Mostly short city trips can cause carbon buildup and gasoline particulate filter (GPF) clogging on this engine.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard sizes are 205/55 R16 or 225/45 R17. Check tread depth and date codes on the sidewall. Look for uneven inner-edge wear on the front tyres, which can point to alignment issues.

Cold start engine rattle

Start the engine completely cold and listen carefully for the first 10 seconds. A brief 1-2 second rattle is normal for this Kappa engine. Anything over 5 seconds can point to timing chain tensioner wear.

Oil level and condition

Pull the dipstick (yellow handle, front-left of the engine bay) with the engine off. The oil should be between the marks and honey-coloured. Very dark oil can point to overdue changes.

Infotainment system check

Turn on the touchscreen and navigate through a few menus. Early 2018-2019 models can have freezing or black screen issues. Ask the seller to show you the current software version.

DURING THE DRIVE

Wastegate rattle on acceleration

Accelerate briskly through 2,000-3,000 RPM and listen for buzzing or rattling from under the bonnet. Some light rattle is a known characteristic of this engine, but loud constant rattling can point to actuator failure.

Suspension knocks over bumps

Drive slowly over speed bumps and listen for knocking, especially from the rear. Clunking sounds typically come from worn anti-roll bar drop links, a common and inexpensive fix on this model.

Dashboard warnings and GPF light

Watch for any warning lights during the drive, particularly the GPF regeneration indicator. If present, the filter may be partially clogged from frequent short trips. Ask the seller about any past warnings.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

European-built compact hatch, on sale since 2018. Generally reliable with mostly minor known issues. Warranty status and recall completion matter most.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

Wastegate rattle

Electronic actuator buzzes on acceleration

€150-800

Timing chain tensioner

Cold start rattle if tensioner is worn

€800-1,500

Carbon buildup (intake)

Direct injection causes valve deposits

€300-600

GPF clogging

Short trips prevent filter regeneration

€400-1,200

Tandem pump (recall)

Brake vacuum pump defect, 2018-2020

€500-1,000

