

Renault Clio E-Tech Hybrid Mk5

2020-2025 · 1.6 H4M + two electric motors (140-145 hp combined) full hybrid automatic

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Est. annual maintenance cost: €650-1,300

Date _____ Mileage _____ Price _____ Seller _____

What matters most: The gearbox O-ring recall is the key concern. Cars built before October 2022 need this seal replaced, or the electric motor risks oil damage. Confirm completion with Renault before visiting.

BEFORE THE VIEWING

Gearbox O-ring recall status

Cars built April 2019 to September 2022 had a faulty seal in the DB1 gearbox. Contact Renault with the VIN to confirm the improved X-ring seal has been fitted.

Service history and software updates

Annual servicing is required regardless of mileage. Ask for records showing hybrid-specific calibration updates, especially the engine recalibration for 2022-2023 models.

12V battery replacement date

The small 12V auxiliary battery drains faster than on normal cars and typically lasts 3-5 years. Ask when it was last replaced. A weak 12V battery causes cascading false warnings.

AT THE CAR

Tyres and exterior condition

Standard sizes are 185/65R15 or 195/55R16 depending on trim level. Check tread depth and sidewall date codes. Uneven inner-edge wear can point to alignment or suspension issues.

Cold start in electric mode

The hybrid system should start silently in EV mode. Listen carefully when the 1.6 petrol engine first kicks in. Any rattling on cold start can point to timing chain wear on higher-mileage cars.

Dashboard warning lights

After starting, watch for warnings like 'Gearbox Failure Risk' or 'Electrical Failure Danger'. These often come from software bugs or a weak 12V battery, but frequent ones need attention.

Infotainment and connectivity

Test Bluetooth pairing, Apple CarPlay, and the reversing camera. Try all USB ports. The EasyLink system is known for screen freezes and Bluetooth dropouts on this model.

DURING THE DRIVE

Hill climbing behaviour

Find a steep hill. The engine should not drop to its lowest gear and rev loudly while barely accelerating. If speed drops to 30-40 km/h with high revs, a software update may be needed.

Hybrid transition smoothness

Pay attention to switches between electric and petrol power. Subtle transitions are normal for the clutchless gearbox, but harsh jolts or repeated hesitation can point to a gearbox issue.

Warning lights during driving

Drive for at least 20 minutes through mixed conditions. Phantom warnings that appear and disappear suggest software or 12V battery problems. Persistent warnings need professional diagnosis.

NOTES

THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Full hybrid supermini, built since 2020. Innovative F1-inspired clutchless gearbox is complex but mostly dependable. The O-ring seal recall on pre-October 2022 cars is the main concern.

KNOWN WEAK POINTS

Gearbox O-ring seal leak

Oil leaks damage e-motor (pre-2022)
€300-8,000

Hybrid software glitches

Phantom warnings, usually benign
€0-500

12V battery drain

Drains in 1-2 weeks if parked
€150-350

Hill climbing hesitation

Over-revving on steep gradients
€0-200

Infotainment freezing

EasyLink screen and USB issues
€100-400

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