

# People who bought or leased a Toyota or Lexus could get benefits from a class action settlement.

— If you still have the vehicle identified below, tear off the certificate and put it in your glove box. —

A nationwide settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit about whether certain Toyota and Lexus vehicles are predisposed to develop oil gel. The settlement continues and enhances a Toyota/Lexus Customer Support Program and allows people who had claims that were denied to submit them to a neutral third party evaluator.

If you're included, you may ask for benefits, or you can exclude yourself, or object. The 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana authorized this notice, and will have a hearing to decide whether to approve the settlement. Get more detailed information at the website or by calling 1-888-279-4405.

## WHO'S INCLUDED?

If you got this notice in the mail, you have been identified as someone who may be included in the Class action. Class members are people who bought or leased one of the vehicles in the center box when it was new, currently own or lease one, or owned or leased one in 2002 and received a mailing from Toyota/Lexus about this issue.

## WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

In 2002, Toyota/Lexus established a Customer Support Program giving vehicle owners additional protection beyond the warranty for damages from oil gel or sludge. Oil gel is a thick, gummy substance that impedes operation of the engine, causes damage to engine parts and can, in some cases, require engine replacement. The lawsuit says that the vehicles covered by the Toyota/Lexus program were defective, leading to oil gel and expensive repairs and other expenses. It also says Toyota/Lexus did not describe the benefits of the Customer Support Program to customers. Toyota/Lexus says that following its recommended maintenance schedule should prevent your vehicle from experiencing oil gel. The settlement doesn't mean that Toyota or Lexus vehicles are predisposed to develop oil gel. The Court did not decide which side was right. Instead, the settlement resolves the case and gives benefits to Class members.

## WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Toyota/Lexus has agreed to continue and enhance the Customer Support Program, to describe its features in a settlement agreement, and also to make them known in a "glove box notice" (see below) issued with this settlement notice. The Customer Support Program describes who qualifies, and how to qualify, for oil gel related repairs and reimburse-

ments; tells customers they have an additional 120 days after the end of the eight (8) year program coverage to submit claims for reimbursement; and allows customers to submit any denied claim for repair or reimbursement to a neutral third party evaluator for review and a final decision. If your eight (8) year eligibility for the program ended before you received this notice about the class action settlement, you have until March 15, 2007 to make a claim, so long as your oil gel problem occurred within eight (8) years from the date of purchase sale or lease. You can read all the details in the settlement agreement at [www.oilgelsettlement.com](http://www.oilgelsettlement.com).

## HOW DO YOU GET THE BENEFITS?

If your vehicle has symptoms of oil gel (blue smoke from tail pipe, illumination of the check engine light on the instrument panel, or excessive oil consumption) take it to your Toyota/Lexus dealer. If your vehicle is covered by the program and you have made reasonable maintenance efforts, and it has an oil gel problem, your vehicle will be repaired, and your reasonable incidental expenses will be paid. If you paid for oil gel repairs or related expenses in the past, and have not been reimbursed, or your claim for reimbursement was denied in the past, please call one of the numbers in the glove box notice below.

WHICH VEHICLES?	
Model	Model Year
Camry 4cyl.	1997-2001
Camry 6 cyl.	1997-2002
Solara 4 cyl.	1999-2001
Solara 6 cyl.	1999-2002
Sienna 6 cyl.	1998-2002
Avalon 6 cyl.	1997-2002
Celica 4 cyl.	1997-1999
Highlander 6 cyl.	2001-2002
ES300	1997-2002
RX300	1999-2002

## WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER RIGHTS?

If you don't want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by **December 30, 2006**, or you won't be able to sue, or continue to sue, Toyota/Lexus about the legal claims this case resolves, ever again. If you exclude yourself, you may not get settlement agreement benefits, but you will, if eligible, get Customer Support Program benefits. If you stay in the settlement, you may object to it by **December 30, 2006**. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case, *Meckstroth v. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. et al.*, No. 583-318, on **February 7, 2007** and continue, if necessary, on **February 8, 2007**, to

consider whether to approve the settlement, and a request by the lawyers representing Class members for fees up to \$1.8 million and expenses of up to \$150,000, plus up to \$50,000 for the Class representatives who helped the lawyers on behalf of the whole Class. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost, but you don't have to. For more information about your legal rights, call 1-888-279-4405 or go to the website listed below.