

# Home & Car Repair Information Online

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There are many different places to look for home and car repair information online. This handout will focus on finding how-to videos on Youtube and instructional materials from parts vendors and community groups. The most important thing when searching for How-To information is persistence. The first website you find won't always work out.

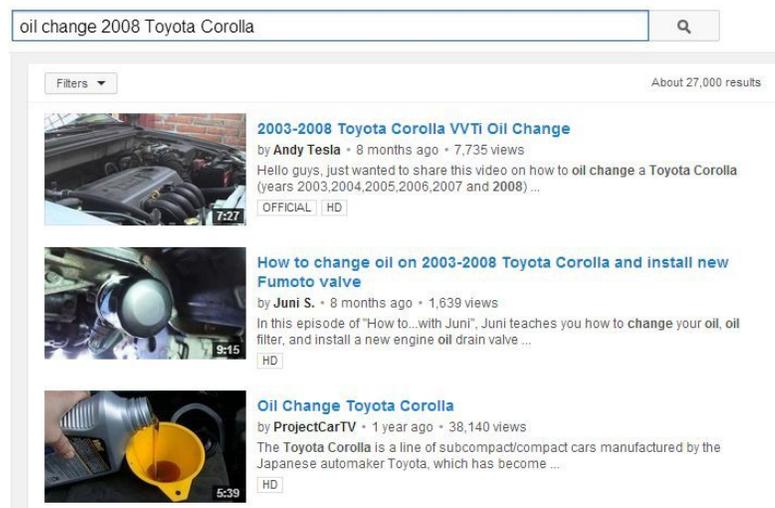
## Finding How To Videos on Youtube

Youtube has thousands of How To videos. These videos are most often posted by the companies who sell the parts you'll need to do the repairs, but are also sometimes done by dedicated amateurs who enjoy creating How-To videos. To begin your search, type “[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)” into the address bar of your web browser, and hit the “Go” button.

For this example, we'll look for instructions on how to change the oil in a 2008 Toyota Corolla. Type keywords related to your task into the Youtube search bar. In this case, we'll type “oil change 2008 Toyota Corolla”.



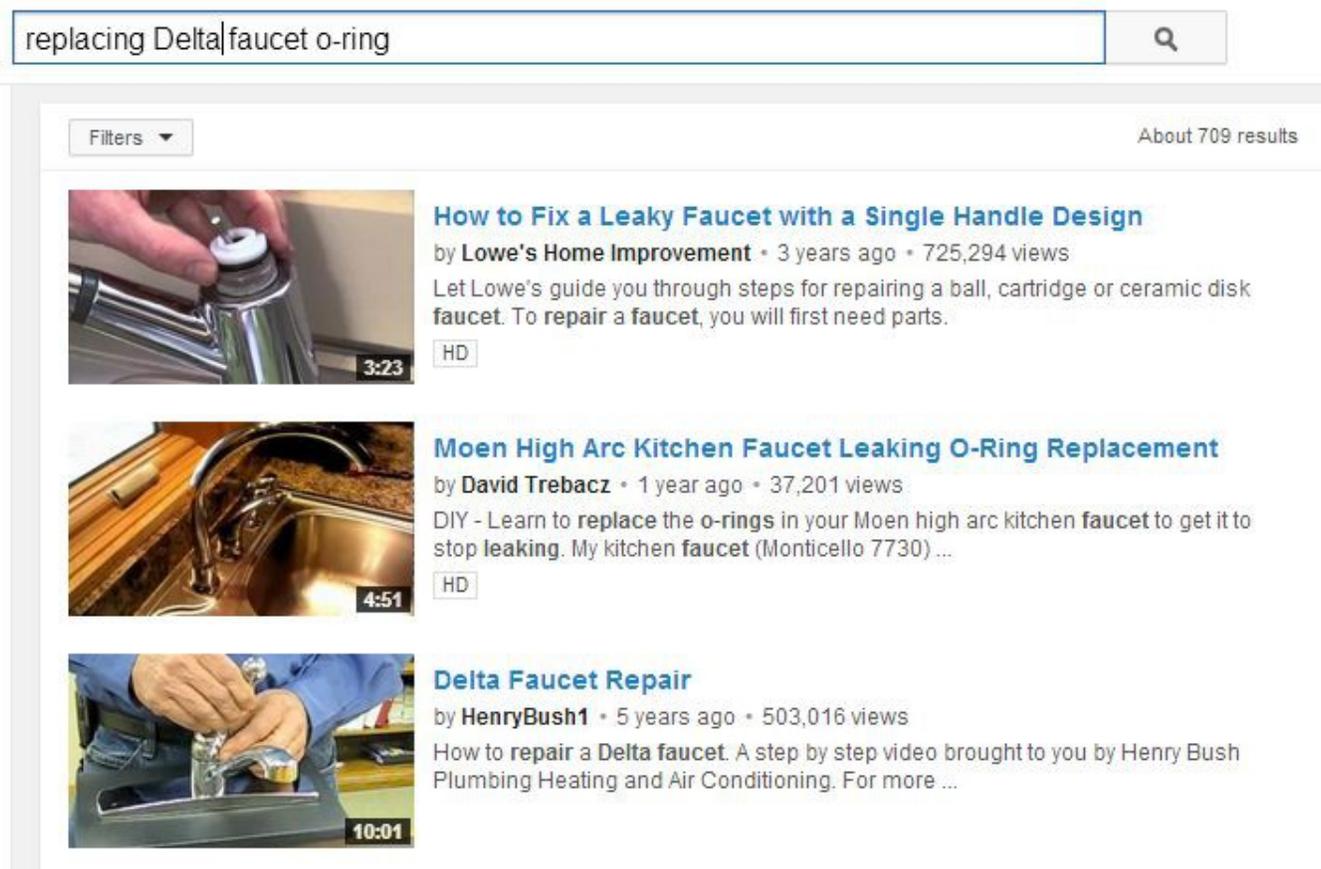
This is a popular search, and there are several videos that look like a perfect match. The next step is to watch the videos until the information is stuck in your head, or you've taken any notes you think you'll need. It is also important to remember though that not all searches will be this easy. When searching for more obscure topics, you may have to run the search repeatedly, trying different combinations of keywords. Once again, you need to be persistent, and if your first set of search terms doesn't work you just try other terms or even the same terms but with a different word-order.



Do not be afraid of the Youtube search-box. There are no hard and fast rules regarding how to search for videos, and you aren't going to break Youtube by running a search repeatedly with different combinations of keywords.

Also, you'll want to bookmark any videos you think you'll be coming back to. Results of Youtube searches can change over time, and if a video seems especially helpful, you should bookmark it for future reference. The video that shows up as the first result on today's search, may end up at the bottom of the page, or on the second or third page of results the next time you go looking for it.

Here's another search example: in this case we're looking for information on how to replace the O-ring in a Delta faucet.



The screenshot shows a YouTube search interface. The search bar contains the text "replacing Delta faucet o-ring". Below the search bar, there is a "Filters" dropdown menu and a search icon. The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is a video titled "How to Fix a Leaky Faucet with a Single Handle Design" by Lowe's Home Improvement, with 725,294 views and a duration of 3:23. The second result is a video titled "Moen High Arc Kitchen Faucet Leaking O-Ring Replacement" by David Trebacz, with 37,201 views and a duration of 4:51. The third result is a video titled "Delta Faucet Repair" by HenryBush1, with 503,016 views and a duration of 10:01. Each video result includes a thumbnail image, the title, the channel name, the view count, the upload date, and the video duration.

Notice how the first video result is from Lowe's Home Improvement. Many companies have made Youtube part of their marketing efforts, and videos from major retail chains tend to be very well done. Marketing studies have found that customers often judge the quality of a store by the quality of their Youtube videos, and tend to show a much higher degree of store loyalty after encountering an instructional video that's especially well done, so retailers take their Youtube videos very seriously.

When you get several videos that appear to have the information you need, it's a good idea to look at all of them, as one of the videos may include details that are passed over in the others. Also, there's no

such thing as one perfect description of how to deal with a problem or issue, one video may leave you thinking “I'm pretty sure I get it but I'm not feeling 100% confident,” and watching the second and third videos may get you to that feeling of, “I've got it now. I can do this.”

### Instructional Materials from Parts Vendors and Community Groups

Youtube is not the only source of vendor supplied repair information. One prevailing trend for many websites is to have links to How-To information on the company home-page. In the example at the right, you can see how when you mouse over the **Project: How-To** button, a drop-down menu appears with links to different types of projects. Clicking the links takes you to other pages where you can find free project guides.



Another source of gardening and landscaping information is the Cornell Cooperative Extension website. The Cornell Garden-Based Learning website offers information on how to get the best possible results with your yard and landscaping. The website is located at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/horticulture>, and offers a simple layout that will help you select the best varieties of plants for the Central New York climate. The site also includes information on pest and weed control options.



Garden

Basics	Vegetables	Flowers
Fruit	Growing guides	Beneficial insects

**Blog**

- Vegetable varieties worth considering**  
 May 15, 2014  
 May is an optimistic month for NYS vegetable gardeners. We might be fortunate enough to be harvesting some cool

You can find home and car repair information on Youtube, on retailer websites, and on community group websites. The most important thing is to be persistent. You aren't going to break Youtube or Google by trying your search repeatedly and with different combinations of search terms. There is no ruler of the internet who will forbid you from looking at any other websites if you don't pick exactly the right one the first time. There are no Internet Nuns who will smack your fingers with a ruler if you use incorrect search terms and have to try again. The attitude you need to have when searching for how-to information online is to "just keep going until you find what you need".