

Time to Check Car for Warm Weather Driving

Consultation with Good Mechanic Urged by Auto Association's Road Service Expert

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A long winter of commuting back and forth to work, schools and shops — often under severe weather conditions — has left your automobile "out of condition" just at a time when you're all set for the pleasure trips of spring and summer.



To plan well for warm weather travel you need to know what has happened to your automobile during the stresses of winter, and how to help insure that the trips you plan to take will be safe and trouble-free.

Nearly 73 million U.S. motorists had some problem with their automobile in 1967, the American Automobile Association's annual survey showed. Forty-three percent of them were due to battery, starter and ignition system failures, an increase of 20 percent over the previous year.

The 14 million flat tires motorists had in 1967 was the second highest figure on the list of all troubles. There also were 581,000 incidences of brake failure.

The Emergency Road Service Department of the AAA suggests you consult a good auto mechanic early this season. A checklist has been developed for your use in working with him to discover and correct any problems which may have developed during the colder months.

Sixty years of experience in auto repair, and our day-to-day observation of the repair needs of 11 million AAA driver-members, lead us to recommend:

- **TUNEUP.** An engine tuneup is a wise investment. Have the ignition, points, spark plugs, battery, voltage regulator, generator and all wiring checked.
- **LUBRICATION.** A thorough lubrication job will lessen wear on vital moving parts. Change to the grade of oil recommended for the driving conditions you expect to encounter. Install a new oil filter cartridge. Check all hydraulic fluid levels.
- **COOLING SYSTEM.** Have the cooling system cleaned and flushed; refill with a good permanent-type antifreeze or add a rust inhibitor. Have the thermostat, fan belt and water pump checked.
- **BRAKES, TIRES AND WHEELS.** Have the brake linings inspected and check the brake seals. Have the three rotated; replace worn or damaged tires to eliminate blowouts and flat tire worries. Check the wheel alignment and balance — unaligned and unbalanced tires cause excessive and uneven wear. Be sure shock absorbers are in good condition. In addition to causing discomfort, bad shock absorbers can be dangerous.
- **VISION.** Windshield wipers, headlights, turn signals, backup and brake lights should all be checked for perfect operation.

That is a fairly thorough examination! You may have reason to believe that your car is essentially in good working order — that you do not have the time or the need for the entire check-up routine.

There are certain minimum precautions AAA suggests before any long-distance travel by automobile, however. They also can be presented as a checklist, which we call a "Trip Check."

The points constitute a simple "make-ready" to assure you of a dependable car:

- **INSPECT AND ADJUST** all fan belts.
- **CHECK AND ALIGN** front end.
- **LOAD TEST** battery and clean terminals.
- **INSPECT AND TIGHTEN** all hoses.
- **INSPECT ALL TIRES.**
- **ADJUST BRAKES,** check linings.

Periodic Checks On Car Brakes, Easy to Make

Brakes, like all-day suckers, have a habit of wearing away slowly. So, it's a good practice to test your brakes periodically to make sure they can stop your car safely.

Every week, test the hydraulic system by firmly pressing your foot against the pedal. If the pedal moves gradually towards the floorboard, you are losing vital pressure. Have the problem corrected immediately.

Periodically, test stopping ability in a flat, open area where no other cars or obstruction are present. Accelerate to 30 miles per hour, then apply the brakes with your hands off the steering wheel. If the car pulls to one side, you may have brake trouble.

In any case, have your serviceman perform a complete inspection of the brake system every six months.

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