

It's fall, the perfect time to get your auto in gear for winter

Suggestions for getting a head start on cold weather car care

It's a statistical fact: Every year tens of thousands of motorists are caught unprepared for the first cold weather. It can be time-consuming and expensive trying to take care of anti-freeze, battery or snow tires at the last minute, when everyone else in the neighborhood is rushing to do the same thing.

To help car owners get ahead of the game, Car Care Council offers a "stitch in time" checklist:

1) **Cooling System:** If it hasn't been done in a while, flush it out with a good chemical cleaner and install fresh anti-freeze. Note: Use in proper proportion.

Pure antifreeze (ethylene glycol) does not cool or protect as well as the proper mixture prescribed on the container.

Check connections, belts, hoses, pressure cap and thermostat.

2) **Battery and Electrical System:** If your battery is over a few years old, have it checked. Cold weather is hard on batteries. Be sure connections are clean and tight. Corroded or loose connections can give the symptoms of a weak or dead battery.

3) **Engine:** Is it time for a tune-up? Faulty wiring, worn spark plugs, a sticking choke or emission control devices that need attention all can lead to hard starting. A diagnostic check-up of the engine can be a good pre-winter investment.

4) **Oil and Filter:** Dirty oil can give you trouble in the winter. Now's the time to change it. Change the oil filter, too. Your car may have several other filters, including the fuel, air and transmission filters, that need changing at this time.

(The transmission filter is changed when transmission fluid is changed, as a periodic maintenance procedure.)

5) **Tires:** For every 10° of temperature drop, your tire pressure decreases by one pound. Obviously, if you haven't checked tire pressure since last summer, they're likely to be several pounds under-inflated.

Periodic rotating of tires (putting them on different locations on the car for more even wear), wheel alignment and balancing all contribute to longer tire life.

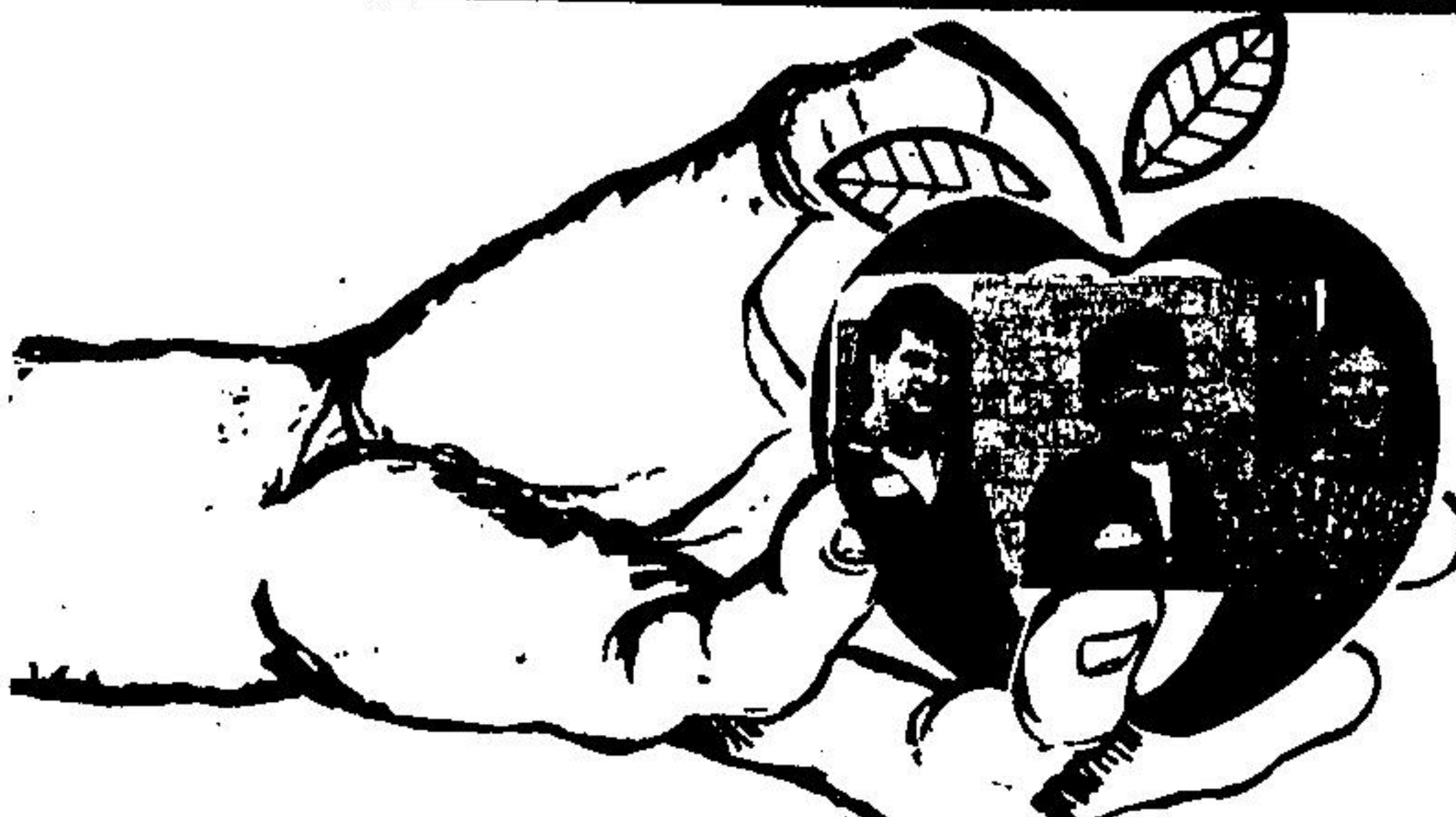
6) **Body and Paint:** Be sure to give the car a good protective coating of wax before the weather turns nasty. This is critical in areas where salt is used for snow removal.

Whether you're a "do-it-yourselfer" or a patron of the professional repairman, there's a lot to be said for getting the car care chores out of the way before severe weather arrives.

For additional information on "How to Find Your Way Under the Hood and Around the Car," send 25¢ and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Car Check, Car Care Council, 600 Renaissance Center, Detroit, MI 48243.



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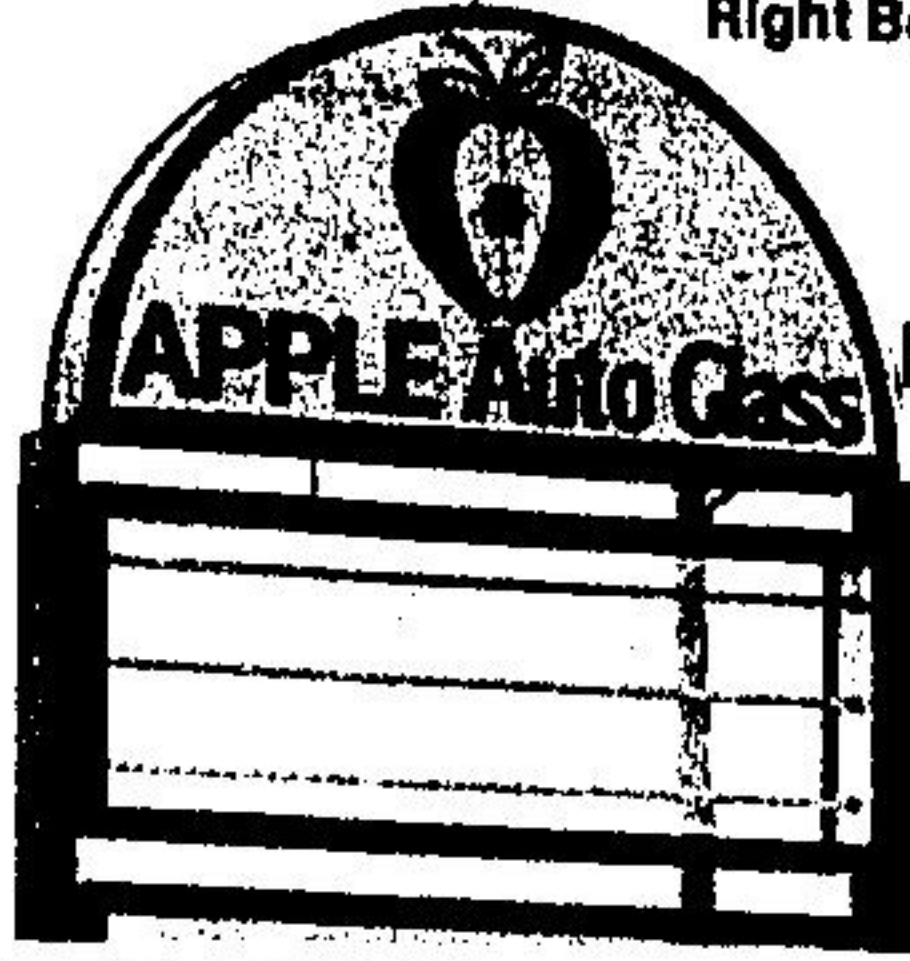


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