

Winter tune-up: Your best bet for worry-free cold weather driving

Ⓜ If this winter is similar to others, as many as 30 percent of America's motorists will have problems starting their cars. They'll blame the cold or a faulty car battery.

But, the fact is, the majority of all winter car problems can be avoided through a simple winter tune-up.

Now is the time to winterize your car. To be sure you're ready for those sub-zero temperatures, the blowing snow and the other wraaths of winter. The Gates Rubber Company, a leading manufacturer of automotive belts and hoses, says a pre-winter tune-up is vital to your car's winter efficiency.

In fact, a complete tune-up is more than twice as effective against winter starting difficulties as is battery service alone.

The importance of a thorough pre-winter tune-up doesn't just apply to snowy, cold and blowing areas of the country. It's just as important in warmer climates which generally experience wet, humid and damp conditions. Such weather also affects a car's starting abilities.

Before the season changes, be sure your service station gives your car a thorough check of all systems. The entire cooling system should also be checked. Your serviceman should look for leaks, rusty coolant, and worn belts and hoses.

If the engine belts and hoses are more than four years old, have them replaced,

regardless of visual condition, suggests Gates.

Fresh anti-freeze should be installed for maximum protection against the elements and a rust-clogged radiator. Have your oil and oil filter changed, if necessary.

A pre-winter check-up should include a battery service check. The voltage needed to start a car increases when the engine has broken or cracked ignition cables, worn spark plugs or plugs with wide gaps, a worn distributor cap or rotor, or a corroded distributor cap. Wet or cold weather compounds these battery problems.

Worn spark plugs will also increase the electrical requirement; they may require up to twice as much electric energy as new plugs.

In addition to having an engine tune-up, be sure that your car is safe and ready for winter.

Have the service station check your snow or radial tires, car brakes, lights and windshield wipers. Have your exhaust system checked to be sure lethal carbon monoxide fumes do not leak into the passenger section. This is especially important during the winter season's "windows closed" driving weather.

Emissions efficiency is also particularly important during the winter months. Since winter conditions confine most cars

to heavily populated areas, the potential for saturating the air with pollutants is greater. So, have your serviceman also examine your emissions accessories.

Once the bad weather hits, keep your car's body free of salt deposits. Salt contributes to early body deterioration.

ENGINE — COOLING SYSTEM CHECK

(This fall, ask your mechanic to perform the following inspection.)

Automotive Belts:

- Fan
- Alternator
- Air Conditioner
- Power Steering
- Timing
- V-Ribbed
- Steering Pump
- Air Pump

Automotive Hoses:

- Upper Radiator
- Lower Radiator
- Heater
- PCV
- By-Pass
- Fuel Line
- Power Steering
- Windshield Washer

Other:

- Oil Level
- Air Filter
- Other Emission
- Spark Plugs & Wires
- Battery & Cables
- Caps (Oil, Radiator, Fuel)
- Windshield Washer Solution
- Radiator Coolant
- Power Steering Fluid

Safety Inspection:

- Tires
- Exhaust System
- Lights
- Turn Signals
- Windshield Wipers
- Horn
- Brakes
- Brake Fluid

Replace/
Refill

OK

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Source: The Gates Rubber Company.

Test your IQ on rust

There are two things you can count on to devastate your car's finish: A collision with another auto, and the corrosive destruction that rust can wreak as a result of harsh winter weather conditions.

Short of leaving your car at home, being a good defensive driver is the best move you can make to help prevent a collision. However, there are several measures you can take to guard against rusting.

Below is a quiz to test your rust prevention IQ and provide tips for keeping your automobile free of unsightly and damaging corrosion.

1. Which of the following elements is likely to promote rust damage to your car's finish? (a) Snow and rain; (b) Dirt and road salt; (c) Wind and cold temperatures; (d) All of the above.

2. True or False. When it comes to preventive measures to combat the onset of rusting, a good rustproofing treatment is all you really need to protect your car's body.

3. When areas of your car's finish begin to bubble, it is a warning sign that: (a) The paint is a low-grade formulation; (b) The finish has been exposed to extreme heat and will be more susceptible to rusting; (c) Rust is in an advanced stage.



4. True or False. When you spot surface rust on your car's finish, you should immediately remove it with a polishing compound and apply a coat of car wax.

5. True or False. After your car has been in an accident, the longer you wait to repair dented and scraped areas, the more likely that rusting will increase the cost of repair.

Answers

1. (d) Each and every one of these factors can contribute to the development of rust. The key to the prevention of rust damage is to control exposure of body metal to the process of oxidation, which each of these elements promotes in one way or another.
2. False. Although rustproofing is an important and effective tool in preventing interior body rusting, it is by no means the complete answer to the problem.
- It is also important to protect the outer body from deterioration. The most effective method of achieving this protection is to maintain a regular regimen of washing and waxing your car. Use of long-lasting wash and wax products, such as those offered through the Rain Dance® line, will maximize your efforts.
3. (c) Paint bubbles appear when rusting has reached a very advanced stage, between the car's metal body and its primer coat of paint. This is the time to take immediate action. Damaged paint must be chipped away from the metal in this area, and a spot primer should be applied to lock out exposure to the elements. When you get a chance, cover up the affected area with matching touch-up paint.
4. True. A polishing compound is the most effective way to remove surface rust. Then, follow up with the application of a good quality car wax, such as Rally® Liquid Car Wax, to protect the affected area of finish and seal out moisture.
5. True. In most cases, the longer you wait to repair your car after a collision, the more likely it is that rust will accumulate in the dented and scraped areas.
- Additional work will then be necessary to repair metal damaged from rust, along with the task of straightening out the body. This will result in a higher repair bill.

WE'LL TAKE
Good Care
of Your Car

MARK POULLOS KEITH POULLOS

**"Serving Georgetown
For Over 7 Years"**

- Tune Ups • Air Conditioning • Computerized Wheel Balancing
- Electrical Problems • Safety Inspections

**Lifetime Guarantee on Mufflers, Brakes
& Shock Absorbers**

Service to most makes & models Free Pick up & Delivery

Handy's

AUTO SERVICES

(FORMERLY MOORE PARK TEXACO)

61 Guelph St. (Hwy. 7) Georgetown **873-0752**

We are located at the lower back level of Outdoor Power Equipment

**MORE CAR
FOR YOUR MONEY**

**87 Model Clearance
EVERYTHING MUST GO!
UNBEATABLE VALUES!**




EXCEL STELLAR

88's ARE HERE!

HYUNDAI COUNTRY

SALES — LEASING — PARTS — SERVICE
218 Guelph St. 873-1694 TOR: 846-8858
"GEORGETOWN'S AUTOMOTIVE HOTSPOT"