### Preparing your car's air conditioning for summer

Is your car ready for summer? You've removed the snow tires and maybe you've given it a good wash and wax to remove winter salt and grime.

Now, you're all set for those hot days to come, when you'll cruise comfortably through town in your air-conditioned car.

Maybe not. You could be in for an unpleasant surprise the first time you turn on your air conditioner this summer.

Many cars, especially older ones, tend' to leak Refrigerant 12, the gas which your car's air conditioner requires in or-

der to operate. If a substantial amount of Refrigerant 12 has leaked out over the course of the

winter, your car's air conditioner will only blow out hot air - not exactly what you'll want during the dog days of sum-

In the past, do-it-yourselfers who wanted to replace lost Refrigerant 12 had to buy a can of refrigerant, and a hose and tapping valve, then attach them together.

The apparatus was often difficult to operate. Worse, it was inefficient and wasteful because, once part of the can was used, the rest could not be saved for later.

Luckily for do-it-yourselfers, the introduction of a new product, Touch 'n Charge", from Convenience Products,

### Oil, air, fuel filters prolong the life of your car's engine

to overhaul their engines after a mere sandths of an inch thick, it's important 20,000 miles. Today, a gasoline engine that the oil be clean. Dirty oil can cause can run well over 100,000 miles and a engine wear, damage the oil pump or diesel can last up to 500,000. What even result in engine seizure. causes the difference? One reason is engine filters.

Oil, air and fuel filters, among the simplest and least expensive parts in an engine (filters cost only \$4 to \$15), are now installed in every car engine. Replacing filters can help prevent damage ranging from \$100 to \$1,500, making filters the best insurance a car owner can buy against premature and costly engine, repair bills.

The most common causes of engine wear are dirt, dust, rust, metal particles and other contaminants. When these particles enter the engine, they can damage the expensive moving parts.

Filters are designed to remove these elements. Constructed from specially treated, pleated filter papers, they come in a variety of shapes and sizes. As oil, air and fuel pass through these pleats, contaminants are retained in the filter.

The experts at Wix filters, Gastonia, N.C., have some tips that can help keep your car's engine running with a minimum of maintenance.

 Replace the oil filter with each oil change, and as often as every 3,000 miles. The oil filter is critical to the engine's performance because it removes impurities from the engine's lubricating

Since the thin film of oil that separates

Until the 1950s, car owners expected the moving parts is only a few thou-

· Change the air filter every 10,000 miles, more often in dusty areas. The air filter cleans the air entering the engine, catching dust, water and bugs.

As the air filter becomes clogged, air flow to the engine is restricted. This can cause poor engine performance or even engine shutdown.

 Replace the fuel filter every 10,000 miles. The fuel filter removes dirt from fuel as it enters the engine. Without the fuel filter, these contaminants could damage the carburetor or fuel injectors.

Filters are replaced as a unit. While they can be changed at a service shop or garage, filter maintenance is a relatively easy job. Car owners may want to buy the filters from their local auto parts store and do it themselves.

If so, Wix recommends that car owners only buy filters of top quality construction. Things to look for include solid construction, good quality gaskets, good instructions and a strong warranty. Wix, for instance, warrants the filter and the engine against filter-eaused damage.

Car owners should also be careful to use the correct replacement filter and to follow the manufacturer's installation directions carefully.

Either way, car owners practicing these three simple steps of preventive maintenance will find their money well spent - not on engine repairs! SC895071

Inc., promises to make the process of replacing lost Refrigerant 12 easier and more convenient.

Touch 'n Charge is an all-in-one unit, completely assembled and ready to use.

Because it comes with a built-in valve and hose, you don't need to worry about buying these separately, or breaking or losing them. It also eliminates the need to attach the tapping valve and hose to the can-often a somewhat difficult proce-

Add refrigerant until the air emitted from your car's air conditioner vent is about 40°-50°F.

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### Help prevent vehicle fires by keeping check on faulty wires

The two main causes of car fires, the circuit is improperly fused.

Leaking fuel is the other culprit, according to Car Care Council. An important aspect of tune-up services is the inspection of all fuel lines and connec-

Increased fuel pressure on newer cars, combined with higher under-hood operating temperatures, makes this a critical precautionary service. "Most car fires are caused by fuel line

connections, generally at the fuel filter or

the carburetor," says John Kennedy,

Fire Investigators.

"Sometimes it's faulty material, even other than accidents, are faulty wiring substandard fuel lines but, more often and/or leaking fuel. Poor insulation on than not, it's merely a matter of the inwires, causing a short, can start a fire if staller having failed to tighten connections properly."

Fuel injection requires higher fuel pressures, thereby requiring a top quality fuel line. As fuel injected engines grow older, and those hoses age, we can expect to see an increase in the incidence of that kind of fire, too.

A leaking fuel pump diaphragm which allows fuel to spray on a hot exhaust manifold is another cause of car fires.

Do not ignore the lingering odor of gasoline in your vehicle. Inspect for leaks President of the National Association of at once, says the Council, and make sure all wiring is properly insulated. SC895333

If You

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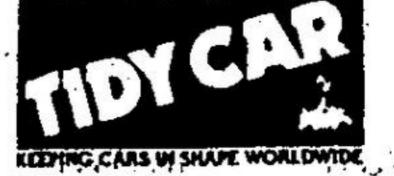
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