

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. Right?

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 order 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 summer!

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,

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 procedure.

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

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

Until the 1950s, car owners expected to overhaul their engines after a mere 20,000 miles. Today, a gasoline engine can run well over 100,000 miles and a diesel can last up to 500,000. What 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 oil.

Since the thin film of oil that separates

the moving parts is only a few thousandths of an inch thick, it's important that the oil be clean. Dirty oil can cause engine wear, damage the oil pump or even result in engine seizure.

• **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-caused 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

Help prevent vehicle fires by keeping check on faulty wires

The two main causes of car fires, other than accidents, are faulty wiring and/or leaking fuel. Poor insulation on wires, causing a short, can start a fire if 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 connections.

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, President of the National Association of Fire Investigators.

"Sometimes it's faulty material, even substandard fuel lines but, more often than not, it's merely a matter of the installer 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 at once, says the Council, and make sure all wiring is properly insulated. SC895333

If You



"Meet by Accident"

UPTOWN COLLISION

REPAIRS • PAINT • CRACKS • BUMPERS

WARRANTY • ALLOY WHEELS • INSURANCE • BEST QUALITY • HAILING • BODY WORK

873-1607

53 MOUNTAINVIEW RD N
GEORGETOWN

HASSELL'S AUTO SERVICE

Complete Auto Service

- Rads & Gas Tanks
- Tires • Alignment
- Tune-ups • Brakes • Steering

\$24⁹⁵

COMPUTER ALIGNMENT

\$39⁹⁵

AC RECHARGE

\$10⁹⁵

LUBE OIL FILTER



DAVE HASSELL 347 GUELPH STREET GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO L7G 4B6 877-7958 — 877-8322

GOT 5 MINUTES?

LET US CHANGE YOUR OIL



OIL FILTER LUBE **\$20⁹⁵**

SUPER LUBE
AND COMPLETE CAR CLEANING

5 ARMSTRONG AVE. 877-9394

MOUNTAINVIEW & ARMSTRONG

LET TIDY CAR KEEP YOUR VEHICLE NEAT



Our Professional Services Include:

- DRY CLEANING INTERIORS
- FABRIC PROTECTION
- VINYL ROOF REVITALIZING
- TOUCH UP PAINT
- SPLASH GUARDS
- WINDOW TINTING
- PRESERV A SHINE
- SUNROOFS
- RUST PROOFING
- CAR COVERS
- RUNNING BOARDS
- PIN STRIPING

Let The Sun Shine In!

SUNROOF SALE From **\$149⁰⁰** Installed

While Supplies Last

"YOUR ONE-STOP CAR CARE CENTRE"

TIDY CAR 873-0570
265 Guelph Street, Georgetown

KEEPING CARS IN SHAPE WORLDWIDE

OPEN:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.