

# Frequent CV boot inspections can save owners money

When your favorite auto mechanic looks you straight in the eye and says, "I checked your boots and they're in good shape," don't even cast a glance toward your tennies, but rejoice in the great news!

The boots in question are flexible rubber sleeves which enclose vital moving parts of the drive shaft assemblies of front-wheel drive cars and some rear-wheel drive cars with independent rear suspensions.

Their function is to hold in lubricants

and prevent dirt, sand and water from damaging CV (constant velocity) joints which connect sections of the shafts.

During the next five years, according to industry estimates, sales of replacement CV joints are expected to increase faster than that of any other component.

To prevent damage to these parts on your car, says Car Care Council, check the condition of those protective boots frequently. Inspect for cuts, leaks or splitting, which may reveal defects that can be corrected to prevent major dam-

age to the CV joints.

Replace the boot as soon as possible after discovering a problem. This is an important "stitch in time."

Cost varies

When should boots be inspected? Have it done every time you take the car in for routine maintenance, oil changes or tire repair. And, if crawling under cars really appeals to you, make your own checks for boots that leak or have been cut by road debris.

Although the inspection is simple, it is easiest when the car is on a lift. Boot replacement should be done by a technician experienced in drive line service, such as a transmission specialist.

The cost of this—or other such drive-line work—varies according to the type of vehicle and/or the locale. In most cases, a maximum cost for the job can be quoted by the repair shop. Be sure to ask for it before proceeding with the work, recommends the Council.

## HAVE A QUALIFIED MECHANIC CHECK YOUR BRAKES

If your car is pushing 30 to 40 thousand miles, you may be pushing on a brake pedal that's soft and squishy. You owe it to yourself and to the safety of your family to have a qualified technician check over the master cylinder, brake lines and hoses, calipers and wheel cylinders...plus lining and pads. Car Care Council recommends that, when you need a brake job, you have it done by a qualified mechanic.



THIS DAMAGED CV BOOT allowed loss of grease and eventual destruction of the CV joint.



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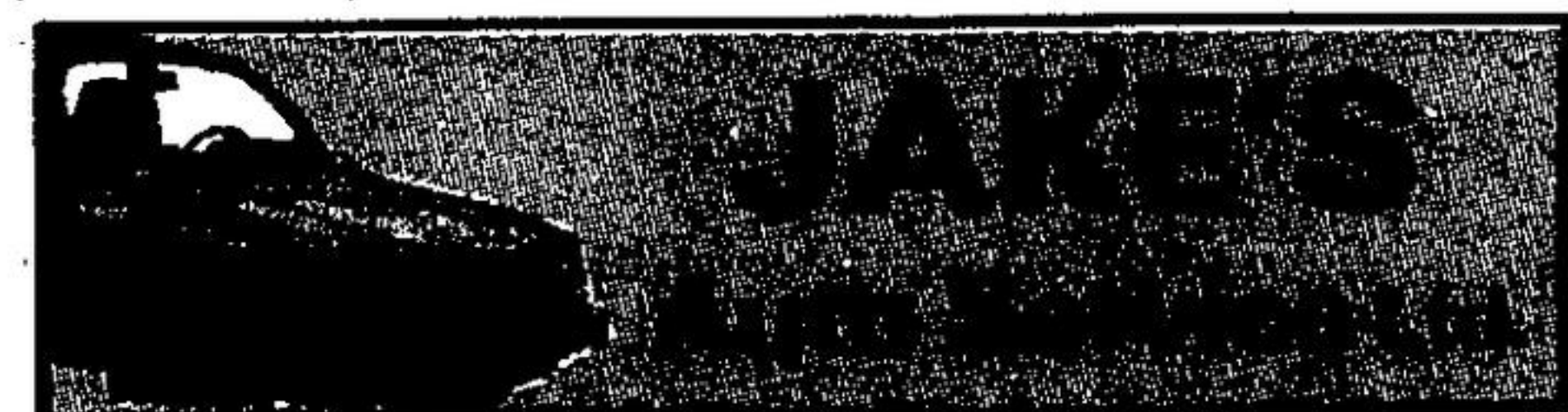
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