

Driving tips from champion racer Bobby Unser can save money and improve auto performance

You don't have to be an expert to drive efficiently and get the best possible performance from your car. According to champion race car driver, Bobby Unser, three-time winner of the Indy 500 and spokesman for the Turbo-Wash™ pressure washer, "Learning how to drive economically will save money, keep your car running better, and add to the life of your car, while poor driving habits waste as much as half the fuel in your tank."

America's number one racer offers the following money-saving tips to keep your car running great:

• **Preventive maintenance means big savings** — Have your car tuned up every 15,000 to 30,000 miles. Miles-per-gallon can drop as much as 15 percent if your car isn't running right.

Check tire pressure. You can lose three to four miles per gallon if your tires are not at maximum pressure.

Make sure your thermostat is running efficiently. A cold-running engine can waste one out of ten gallons of gas.

When you need new tires, purchasing radials instead of conventional tires can improve your gas mileage up to seven percent. You'll also save money on replacement, since they last longer than conventional tires.

• **Safe driving is like money in the bank** — Avoid unnecessary lane changes. Weaving in and out doesn't move you forward, but it does use up a lot of gas. Accelerate slowly from a stop.

Everyone knows that driving over 55 miles an hour burns more gas, but did you know that driving slower than 25 mph wastes gas, too?

On moderately hot days, using your car's ventilation system instead of the air conditioner will save gas. In milder weather, drive with windows closed so airflow doesn't make your engine work overtime.

• **Keeping your bank account and bodywork in shape** — Don't waste money on rust-proofing a new car... most already come with corrosion protection built-in and warranties against corrosion. Rust-proofing an older car can actually cause rust, because you may seal in the same corrosive materials you were trying to protect against.

Car covers are another waste of



ACCORDING TO CHAMPION RACE CAR DRIVER, Bobby Unser, the best way to prevent rust is by keeping your car clean. Turbo-Wash® pressure washer eliminates dirt without scrubbing, protecting your car's finish from the "demons of winter."

money. Instead of protecting your car, the cover traps moisture and slows down evaporation.

The best way to prevent rust is by keeping your car clean. Hand-washing your car instead of taking it to an automatic car wash saves money and is easier on the paint job. Those big car-wash brushes can grind dirt right into the paint, and the recycled water may be spraying corrosive salt on your car.

To avoid scratches when you wash your car at home, use water pressure instead of elbow grease to get rid of grime. Finish up with a good wax to seal out dirt and corrosive chemicals.

• **Choosing the right mechanic** — Shop around for estimates and pick the right shop for each job. One may charge less to do the body work while another may have a good price on painting. An independent diagnostic center has no incentive to suggest unnecessary repairs. The \$30-\$45 dollar fee can save you hundreds in the long run.

If your car needs body work, used or

rebuilt parts are less expensive than new ones, and often they're just as good.

• **Some alarming facts** — Before buying an expensive car alarm or security device, remember that the FBI says most cars are stolen by amateurs. Locking your car and taking the key is the best anti-theft device, and it doesn't cost a cent.

If you do have a car alarm, ask your insurance company about discounts. If your company doesn't provide a discount, you may want to check around for one that does. Buy an alarm sticker. For less than two dollars you may be able to deter a criminal.

• **Watch where you park** — When parking in a driveway, face your car toward the street. A thief is less likely to hot wire your car if he/she can be seen by people passing by.

Turning your wheels toward the curb when parking on the street will make it difficult for someone to push your car away.

Here's some tips on winter driving hazards

The key to safe winter driving is foresight. With the colder months approaching, advance preparation is essential for taking on winter's hazards. By taking a few precautions and carrying a few important items in your car, you and your family can avoid many winter dangers. The makers of Prestone® offer this checklist to keep you driving safely.

against cooling system failure during the winter. Motorists who flush with Prestone® Super Flush and refill with Prestone® Advanced Formula, can register their car or light-duty truck in the renewable one-year "Prestone Radiator Guarantee," regardless of make, model, year or mileage. The makers of Prestone will pay for coolant-related damage up to \$100.

• Always carry a can of de-icer for the windshield. Insist on one like New Prestone Spray De-Icer, which contains antifreeze to prevent ice from reforming, and a non-streaking formula to keep windows clear.

• A bag of sand is useful to increase traction when snow or ice cause tires to lose their grip on the road. Keep a collapsible shovel in your trunk to shovel the sand and dig you out of a tough spot.

A rugged scraper top to break up ice and an extra large spray button that can be depressed without removing gloves are also beneficial to the winter driver.

• For cars with rear wheel drive, it's a good idea to load up the trunk with a heavy object like a sand bag. The weight in the rear of the trunk can prevent "fishtailing" in icy conditions. Be sure that the weight is firmly positioned in the front section of the trunk.

• It's a good idea to fill up with a windshield washing antifreeze. The windshield may be clear of ice and snow, but dirt kicked up from passing cars can greatly reduce your visibility.

Taking these few simple precautionary steps can save you and your family from a harrowing winter driving experience. FC891407

• It's important to flush and refill your radiator in the fall to protect

Watch that radiator cap!

The scene is a familiar one: A car on the side of the road, hood up, a geyser steaming from the radiator. A typical summer scene, right?

Wrong. This scene could come true any time of the year, stranding you on the roadside, the end result of a bad radiator or cooling system cap, according to Swedish automaker Saab.

A car's radiator cap is one of those many little "out of sight, out of mind" parts of your car you probably don't think about. But it does a very big job, holding your car's coolant/antifreeze mixture under pressure in your radiator and engine block.

A leaky radiator cap, or a cap that is otherwise in poor condition, can cause your cooling system to be improperly pressurized. The consequences of an improperly pressurized system could include causing your engine to over-

heat, causing your engine's coolant hoses to rupture if the cooling system pressure is too high, damaging your heater core, or damaging the radiator itself.

One way to tell if the cap is not in good shape is simply to inspect it, something you can do yourself. Before you remove the cap, however, it's best to wait till your engine cools. Boiling coolant can cause serious burns, warns Saab.

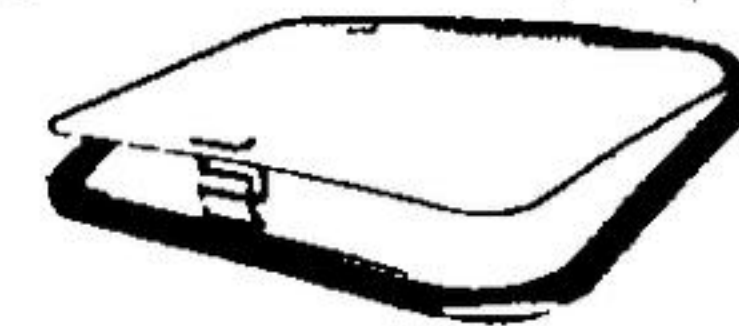
When the engine is cool, slowly remove the cap and check the rubber gasket inside. If it is cracked or looks deteriorated, consider replacing it before it causes trouble.

Also check to ensure that the cap fits tightly, and that someone, somewhere along the way, has not replaced it incorrectly. If the cap is cross-threaded,

meaning that it has not been replaced correctly, it will probably be sitting at an angle, and possibly leaking.

If you suspect that the cap is damaged or should be replaced, you can have your service station or dealer make a pressure test on the cap, which requires a special device—and the know-how to use it.

If you have any doubt about the cap's reliability, have it replaced at the first opportunity, and save yourself some trouble down the road, advises Saab. FC891547



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