

# Get a jump on spring car care

Spring is the season of unpredictable weather. One day may be rainy and cool and the next day may be warm and sunny. With this in mind, car owners need to take precautions to help eliminate car problems.

Something as simple as replacing worn windshield wipers or changing the oil can prevent problems if taken care of in advance.

"Simple car maintenance can make a big difference on the road," says Jennifer Runyeon, president of Lifetime Automotive Products, Inc. "Being caught in a sudden downpour is not the time to realize you need new wipers."

Here are some preventive auto maintenance guidelines for spring driving conditions.

### Ten tips for spring car maintenance

1. Rotate tires and have air pressure checked by a professional. Winter driving causes wear and tear on tire tread.
2. Check the brake fluid to ensure it's at the correct level. Your car's master cylinder, the heart of the brake system, contains a reservoir for brake fluid. Proper fluid level is vital to ensure brake performance.
3. Winter sludge can clog filters. Therefore it's important to replace them with clean filters that will protect essential components of the engine and transmission from grit, dirt and other foreign matter which enter the engine from outside air.
4. Prolong your car's expensive finish and protect it from the sun's damaging rays by applying a sun protectant. Shade™ Auto Sunblock is guaranteed to protect the car's finish against fading for two full years.
5. Check hydraulic lifts on trunk, hatch and tailgate to make sure they

are safe. Worn lifts allow hatches and hoods to fall, causing pain and injury, plus they're expensive to replace. The Lift Saver™ is an inexpensive alternative that safely braces worn-out lifts.

6. Inspect windshield wiper blades each time you clean your windshield. Windshield wipers are essential to your driving safety, especially during the rainy spring season. Tripledge™ Lifetime Wipers will clean, clear and squeegee your windshield and are guaranteed for as long as you own your car. This eliminates the bi-yearly wiper replacement chore and expense.

7. Keep the windshield washer reservoir full. Use some solvent on a rag to clean off the wiper blades. Adding Jet Vision™ to your ordinary solvent will improve cleaning power for the clear-est vision.

8. With the summer travel season approaching, make sure your car will get the best gas mileage possible. Lifetime Fuel Booster™ is a 100 percent petroleum compound that reportedly decreases gas consumption over 10 percent and improves engine performance. Lifetime Fuel Booster™ contains no synthetic chemicals which can clog engines.

9. With increasing gas prices, a tank of gas is a valuable asset. Protect your fuel supply from siphoning and tampering with the Spare Key Locking Gas Cap™. This handy gas cap also features a secret compartment for emergency cash and spare keys to prevent lockouts.

10. Check your car's ignition, carburetion and emissions components to ensure engine performance. A first class tune-up includes a thorough diagnostic check by a qualified technician.

### Tire care tips for improving fuel economy

- Maintain proper tire inflation — between 20 and 35 pounds per square inch (psi). Underinflation of four or more psi can reduce fuel economy by at least five percent and tire life as much as 40 percent.
- Check the placard in the glove box or on the driver's door for the vehicle's recommended tire pressure.
- Check tire pressure at least once every two weeks with a reliable air pressure gauge.
- Valve stems should have a plastic or metal cap. Plastic caps keep out the dirt, but metal ones have a rubber gasket that seals against leakage.
- Rotate tires every 10,000 miles.
- Check the alignment of your vehicle once a year. Misaligned tires can cause the car to drag, lowering mileage and causing unnecessary wear on the tires.

Source: Yokohama Tire Corporation

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