



MULTI-PURPOSE FUEL ADDITIVES like STP Gas Treatment can help rid the carburetor of power-robbing deposits and keep it clean all year long.

Protect cooling system

When summer's heat hits, will your car's cooling system be ready to withstand the high temperatures? If not, the engine could overheat, leaving you stranded with an expensive repair bill.

With summer around the corner, it's the perfect time to make sure your cooling system is ready to go the distance during hot weather.

According to the experts at First Brands Corporation, manufacturer of Prestone cooling system products, you should flush your cooling system and refill it with a fresh antifreeze and water mixture once a year. That's because even if your existing antifreeze tests okay for boil over protection, its rust and corrosion inhibitors may be weak and ineffective. In fact, approximately 70 percent of key corrosion inhibitors can be depleted during a year of driving.

The first step in changing your old antifreeze is to flush the cooling system thoroughly.

However, flushing the cooling system with just water can leave behind grease, dirt and other sediment, which can restrict free coolant flow and harm the system. You should use a product specially designed for flushing, such as Prestone Super Flush. It is safe for use in all engine cooling systems and can remove 53 percent more oil, dirt and rust than flushing with water alone.

Once the system has been thoroughly flushed, the next step is to refill it with the proper mixture of antifreeze

and water. The mixture amount depends on the cooling system's capacity, which you can determine by checking the owner's manual.

A minimum 50-50 mix of Prestone Advanced Formula Anti Freeze/Coolant and water raises a cooling system's boiling point to 265 degrees F (with a 15-pound pressure cap), and a 70-30 mix (70 percent antifreeze/coolant to water) will provide maximum boil over protection up to 276 degrees F (with a 15-pound pressure cap).

When you conduct your own cooling system maintenance, you can take advantage of Prestone's "Radiator Guarantee" program. If you flush your cooling system with Prestone Super Flush and refill with Prestone Advanced Formula, you may register for a renewable, one-year program covering any coolant-related radiator damage up to \$100.

Before disposing of used antifreeze, First Brands recommends that you check with local authorities to determine proper disposal requirements. You can obtain a booklet on antifreeze and its properties by writing to Prestone Advanced Formula: P.O. Box 1911; Danbury, CT 06813-1911.

By properly maintaining your car's cooling system now, you can help to ensure that it will be protected from hot summer weather, and be able to provide you and your family with comfortable, trouble-free driving throughout the summer months.

Finding a reputable garage can solve many problems

The best way to keep your car's engine purring throughout the year is to find and frequent a reputable garage. There is no substitute for regular auto maintenance at a garage you know, say experts at Ontario's Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

But many motorists may not have a regular garage. And using a service station referred to you by a friend may not give you much confidence if you don't know a gasket from a generator.

If you car needs repair work, knowing about Ontario's Motor Vehicle Repair Act (MVRA) will help you get the service you need. The act can also help ensure the final bill won't put a bigger dent than you expected in your budget.

The Motor Vehicle Repair Act requires repairers to provide full information on how they calculate charges, written estimates on request, and a 90-day warranty on new and reconditioned parts and associated labor.

Consumers should be able to see one result of the act as soon as they walk through the door of a garage. A sign listing the repairer's prices, and stating

whether they are based on an hourly rate or a flat rate must be posted.

"Flat rate" means the customer is charged for labor according to a book listing of the average time it takes to do most repair jobs. Once a mechanic knows what your car's problem is, garages using flat rates can normally tell you almost exactly what the labor charge will be.

This system has both advantages and disadvantages. Some experts say consumers may be better off dealing with a shop that charges by the hour. That's because a mechanic in a flat-rate shop may not take extra time to correct a problem. Many people think mechanics are more likely to do a more thorough job when an hourly rate is charged.

Regardless of the rate system used, the customer must be provided with a cost estimate on request.

Consumers should ask for the estimate in writing because this guarantees their protection under the act. By law, the repairer can charge only 10 percent more than the price quoted in the written estimate unless the customer agrees to extra charges.

The estimate should include:

- name and address of customer and repairer;
- make, model, VIN (identification number for the individual auto) and licence number of the vehicle;
- description of work or repairs to be made;
- parts to be installed and a

statement as to whether they will be new, used or reconditioned;

- price of parts to be installed;
- total cost of labor; and
- date the estimate is given and the date it expires.

Repairers may charge for estimates, but must tell the customer the cost in advance. Much of the time required to complete an estimate may also be necessary to complete the job.

When the job is done, the consumer should ask for an itemized invoice. This will help the repair act protect the customer if problems arise later, because it requires that garages offer a warranty on both new and reconditioned parts, and associated labor for 90 days, or 5,000 kms., whichever comes first.

The warranty applies only to work that is the repairer's responsibility, however. If you have new tires installed and drive over a nail the next day, replacing the ruined tire is your problem.

Consumers who have complaints about the services they've received from a motor vehicle repair shop should contact their local ministry Consumer Services Bureau. The telephone number will be found in the Blue Pages of the telephone book.

To receive a copy of the free brochure Car Repair, Promise and Performance, including information on Ontario's Motor Vehicle Repair Act, write to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Consumer Information Centre, 555 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6.

ECOLINE

by Catherine Foley



Caring for Our Resources

CAR TUNE-UPS

A properly tuned car starts more easily, gets better mileage, and causes less air pollution.



1. The ignition system should be checked and spark plugs cleaned - a misfiring plug can reduce mileage by 10%.

2. Incorrect "timing" can cause incomplete combustion, and emission of unburned fuel.

3. A dirty air filter can reduce mileage by 10%.

4. A slow or stuck choke can reduce mileage by up to 25% and damage the engine.

The best way to reduce air pollution is not to drive a car. If you can't do that, at least keep your car well-maintained.

Source: Ontario Ministry of the Environment

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"

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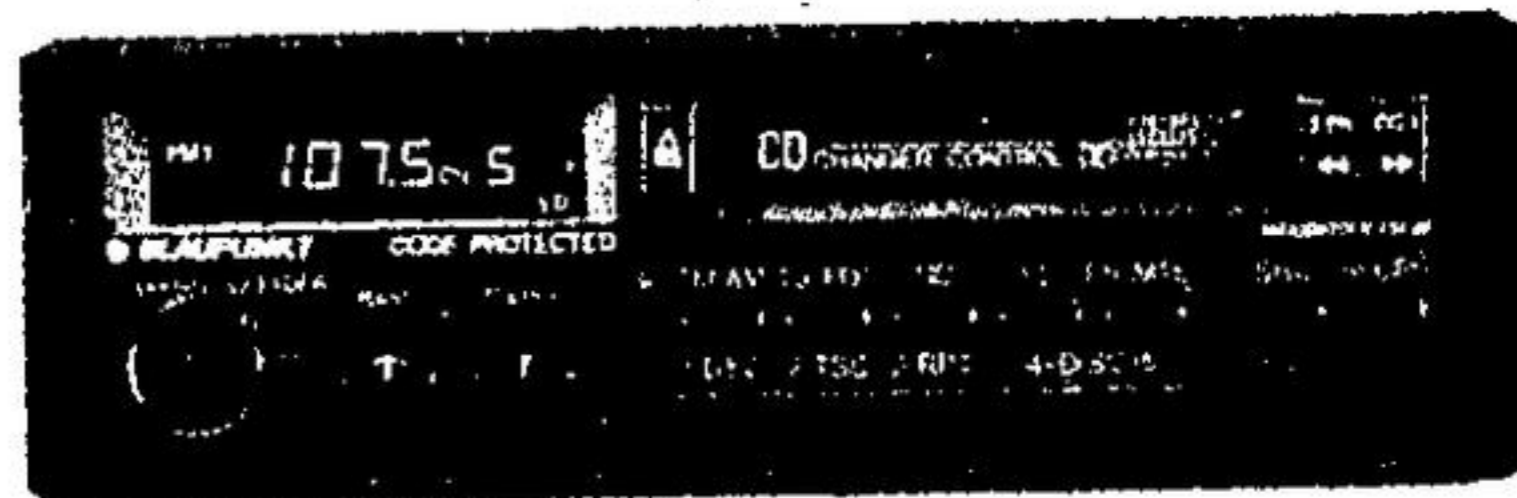
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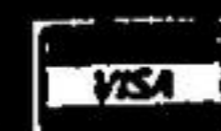
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