

Bruce Robertson of Riteway Autobody is busy polishing a car for delivery. "At Riteway Autobody customer satisfaction is our priority!"

Proper auto care takes the heat off of summer driving

The last thing any motorist wants during the hot summer months is to be stranded on the road because his or her car has broken down. However, problems such as this can be easily avoided if proper, year round, maintenance is practiced.

It is often difficult to foresee when your car needs attention, but the following tips focus on some of the aspects of automotive maintenance that may require your attention.

1. If your engine is hard to start, uses a lot of gas, is sluggish or smokes, have it checked by a professional.

2. Make sure the cooling system is performing properly and check the antifreeze level.

3. Check the tire pressure and tread.
4. Check the oil. It's not just a lubri-

cant, it also serves as an engine coolant.

5. Is your car's transmission noisy, or does it slip when you shift gears? If so, have it checked as soon as possible, since transmission repairs can become costly.

6. Check the hoses and belts for signs of wear. If a hose or belt fails, it can radically effect a vital part of the motor.

7. Have the brakes checked if they are making any noise or are not performing as well as they should.

8. Replace the windshield wipers if they are streaking or smearing.

Keeping your car in good condition with periodic checkups can increase its lifetime as well as its resale value. Money spent now on maintenance may well save you money down the road on repairs.



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