

Car Winterization



What's involved in a tune-up?

New car commercials feature 100,000-mile intervals between recommended tune-ups. Most cars would be in pretty bad shape if their owners waited that long.

When a typical car goes into the shop for a complete tune-up, a service generally required every 30,000 miles or every two or three years, what services should be included?

Electric ignition, computerized engine controls and electronic fuel injection have eliminated many of the adjustments that once were part of a traditional tune-up.

One of the main reasons people take their vehicles into their technician for a tune-up is because they are experiencing a "driveability" problem: starting, stalling, hesitation on acceleration, poor gas mileage or lack of power.

These symptoms in today's complex engines require a comprehensive diagnostic check,

including an exhaust emissions check (now mandatory in many areas).

Following are 17 items usually included in a complete tune-up.

The list may vary according to vehicle and/or the shop providing the service, but it's a handy reference for owners seeking quality service.

What they check!

1. Replace spark plugs.
2. Check the distributor cap and replace if necessary.
3. Check ignition timing and adjust if necessary.
4. Check ignition wires and replace if necessary.
5. Check ignition performance (firing voltage/ignition patterns).

6. Check engine idle speed and adjust if necessary.

7. Check the choke mechanism (on engines with carburetors).

8. Clean fuel injectors.*

9. Check compression and/or power balance (to identify bad injectors as well as compression problems).

10. Check manifold intake vacuum to reveal exhaust restrictions.

11. Check battery and charging voltage.

12. Check exhaust emissions to verify fuel mixture, emission controls performance and ignition performance.

13. Check the vehicle's computer for presence of any trouble codes.

14. Install a new air filter.

15. Replace the fuel filter(s).

16. Replace the PCV (positive crankcase ventilation) valve.

17. Check all emissions control components.

Don't let simple, preventive car maintenance procedures fly south with the birds this winter. Get your vehicle off to a road-ready start by bringing it to a certified mechanic for a seasonal inspection.

Tips for wiper care safety

A clean windshield is a safety feature you can't drive without. Rain and snow are not the only hazards that can cloud your ability to clearly see the road. Mist, mud, salt, road grime, heat, smog, insects and even bird droppings can challenge the performance of your windshield wipers.

No matter what climate you live in, when it's your windshield against the elements, you want dependable wiper blades. During the winter of 1994, CNN reported a 400-percent

increase in windshield washer fluid sales. It's easy to tell when you need to refill the fluid, but have you checked the condition of your wiper blades lately? Why wait until it's drizzling and your wipers only smear dirt on the windshield to inspect the blades?

These five windshield wiper care tips are provided by the experts at Tripledge, a blade for all seasons and the No. 1-selling wiper blade in the United States.

- Check the condition of your

windshield wiper blades at least once a month when performing routine car maintenance or cleaning. Don't wait until you're driving in hazardous weather.

- Clean the wiper blades with a damp rag when cleaning the windshield. Wipe free of dirt, grime and bugs.

- Wiper blades should be firm and smooth from end to end, not "dried out."

- Immediately replace blades that are chipped, torn, cracked or split.

- Blades should clear, clean and squeegee the glass completely for optimum visibility without skipping or chattering.

Lifetime-guaranteed Tripledge® premium wiper blades are made in of Dow Corning® silicone, instead of rubber, which can deteriorate when exposed to the elements. Every time Tripledge blades wipe the windshield, they leave an invisible shield on the glass to help keep it clean; water beads and rolls off, even when the wipers aren't being used.

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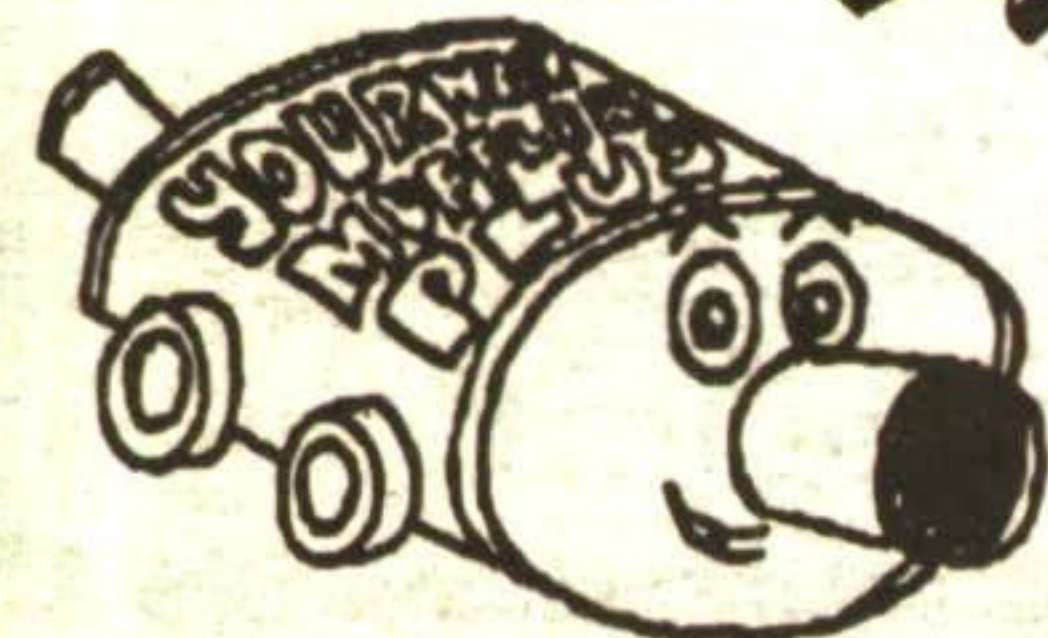
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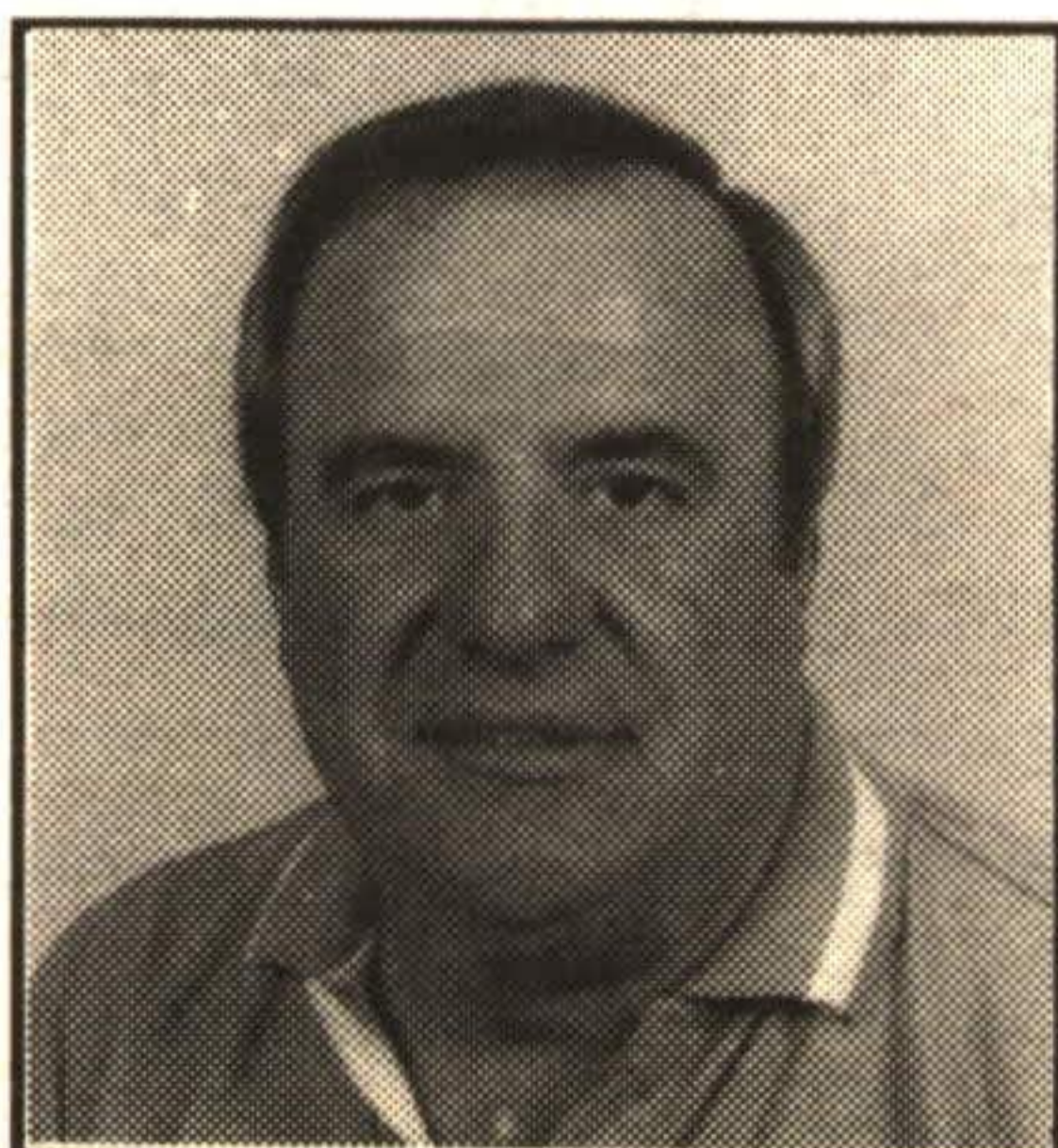
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