## Make sure you keep an eye on your car's vital fluids

our car is as reliable as the care it gets. A prudent motorist knows this and carefully follows the directions in the owner's manual, making sure that a regular maintenance program is carried out. You can increase your protection by taking a little time to see what's going on under the hood.

1. Check the oil level every second time you fill the gas tank and keep an eye out for tell tale oil dribbles on your garage floor. (Your car can no more operate without oil than your body can without blood, even for a few minutes.) To check the oil, remove the dip stick and wipe it off. Replace it firmly then remove it again to see the oil level. Only add oil if the level has dropped below the 'Add' mark. Don't fill beyond the 'Full' mark.

2. Change the oil and oil filters every 3 months or 5,000 km, whichever comes first (the new high-tech FRAM X2TM Extended Guard filter is said to be good for 11,000 km). "If you do nothing else in the way of preventive maintenance do these oil and filter changes,"

says Peg Campbelton, Fram's brand manager. "They are the single most effective things you can do for long engine life." Campbelton recommends Fram's Sure Grip line of oil filters because they trap up to 96% of harmful dirt particles the first time they pass through the engine.

3. Check your transmission fluid, which is also done with a dip stick. Most cars require this be done while the engine is running. If the normally pink fluid has turned a dirty brown or has a burned smell, take the car to a mechanic right away.

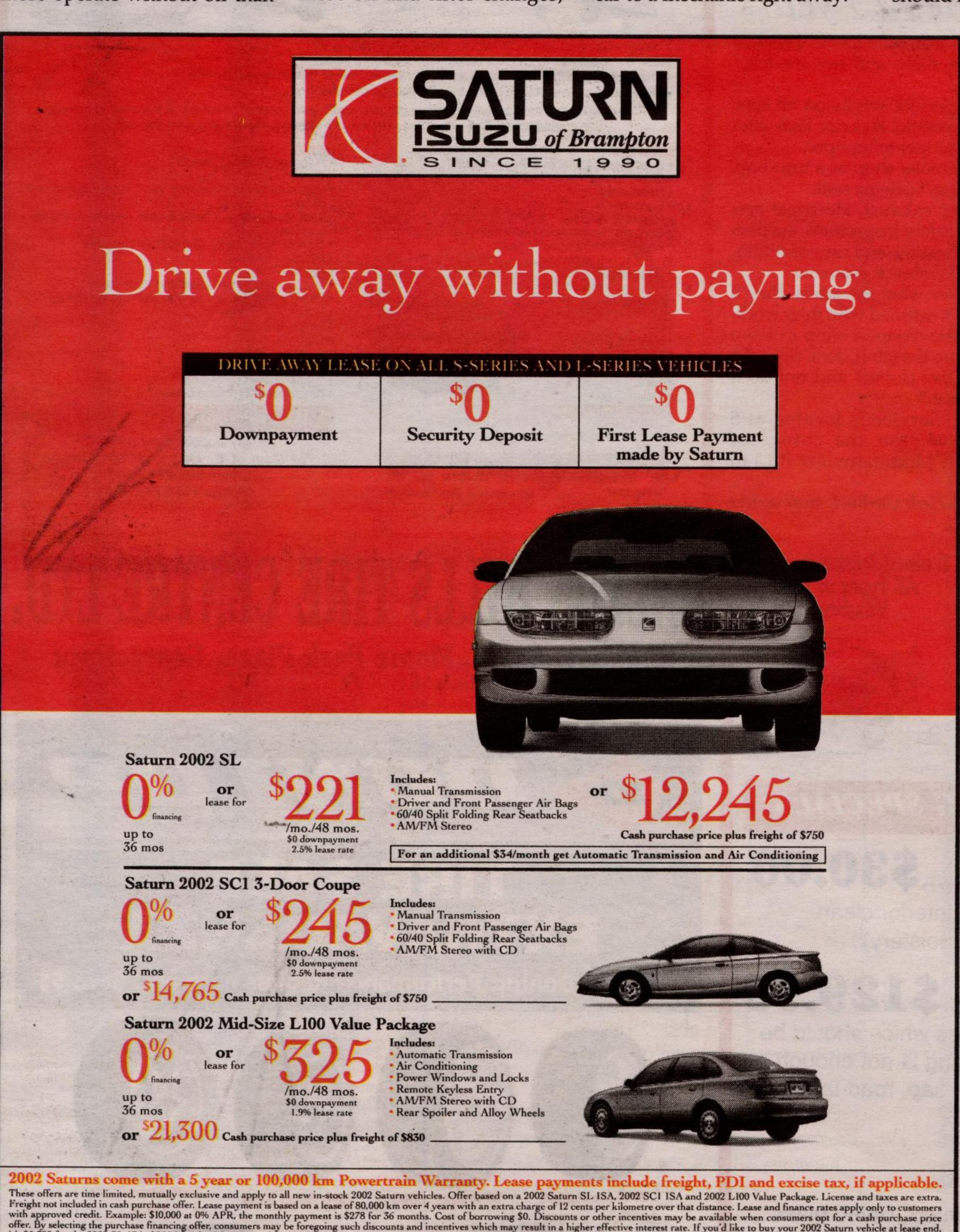
4. Your brake fluid container is also under the hood. Fluid level drops slightly as brake pads wear out. If the level drops noticeably in a short period of time, have your brakes checked.

5. Most important – check your coolant - BUT NEVER OPEN THE RADIATOR CAP OF A CAR THAT HAS JUST BEEN RUNNING. Your coolant tank has two marks on its side- 'Full Hot' and 'Full Cold'. If the level goes below 'Full Cold' after adding fluid, you probably have a leak and should have it checked.

Jim Hollins, Prestone brand manager, recommends flushing the radiator system before adding new coolant. "Fill the system with water, allowing room for Prestone Super Flush. This product is designed to remove the rust that can not be moved by plain water. Also check your owner's manual for cooling system capacity. Add between 50 and 70 percent Prestone Antifreeze/Coolant and water."

For more car care ideas visit the Prestone Web site at www.prestone.com

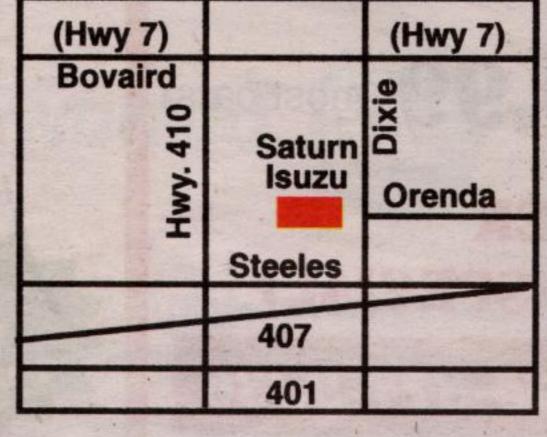
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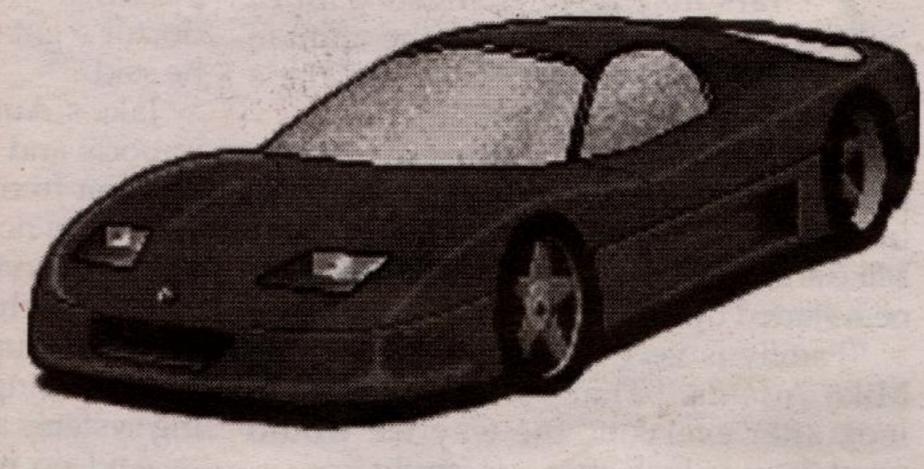


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## Regular cleaning of your automobile will ensure its longevity

s the nice weather draws near and you begin thinking about spring cleaning, why not include your vehicle in your plans?

Many Canadians rely on their car for both work and play, and are proud of their investment. Regularly cleaning your car and following some simple tips will help keep it looking good and ensure its longevity.

Cleaning

You should wash your car weekly, but how do you know when you need to step it up and use a cleaning solution? Canadian Tire suggests this simple test:

1. Wash and dry the vehicle's surface.

2. Run your hand along the surface. If you feel changes in how smooth the surface is, then you need a cleaning solution.

And remember...

· Don't use household, dish or laundry detergent as they strip the wax and remove essential oils

 Using a cleaning solution will help remove dirt while replacing essential oils

Don't forget the wheels, windows and grilles!

Waxing and Polishing

How do you know when you should wax and polish your car? Canadian Tire recommends waxing your car quarterly and polishing it every six months. Polishing creates the shine, while waxing provides protection. When paint appears dull or full of small scratches, it's time to polish. To avoid the possibility of paint damage it's best to use a polisher, such as the Simoniz Cordless Polisher. If you want to know if it's time to wax, follow these easy steps.

1. Take a dry, clean terry cloth towel and rub along the surface.

If it squeaks ... time to wax!

2. If water becomes difficult to wipe off ... time to wax!

3. If beads of water on your car look more like puddles ... time to wax!

Follow these easy tips and you will be rewarded with a vehicle that looks like it's right off the showroom floor.

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