

Quick tip

Leaky cooling systems can be the bane of motorists driving older vehicles. Leaks most commonly occur in four areas – the radiator, heater core, hoses and gaskets. All four areas can be protected by Prestone Stops Leaks. It seals cracks forming at inlet/outlet hose fittings, seals gaskets at the thermostat and water pump and it works at the head gasket preventing coolant loss to the air and ground. At the radiator and heater core, it seals leaks caused by internal corrosion. For more information, visit www.prestone.com.

Does your car need a post-summer cleanup?

The summer's over and the hot weather driving has taken its toll on your vehicle's appearance. Time for a thorough clean-up.

Start by giving the bodywork a preliminary soaking with a hose to loosen up the dirt. Then use a special purpose automobile shampoo, wiping off the grime with a soft cloth or chamois. Don't do this in direct sunlight as

this may leave spots and blotches on the finish... and don't use kitchen detergent for the wash, it could affect the finish, taking the brightness out of your paintwork.

Dry the bodywork thoroughly before finishing off with a good waxing to keep out the winter's salt.

It's a rare summer that comes to an end without leaving the remains of the season's bugs baked onto the vehicle.

They should be removed with care to prevent scratching the finish. Prestone Pro Clean Bug & Tar Remover, for instance, is formulated to remove all traces of bugs and it comes with a no-scratch scrubber pad that's kind to the paintwork.

The cookies, colas and chips that keep the kids quiet on the weekly run to the cottage have a nasty way of ending up on the upholstery and

the rugs. There's a Prestone Pro Clean Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner that will clean up all traces of the back seat feasting and this too, comes with a handy built-in scrubbing brush.

Check out the Prestone web site at www.prestone.com for more tips on wiping away the traces of summer driving and giving your vehicle that showroom look again.

—News Canada

Checking fluids, filters will protect car's engine

Just as your body runs on its vital fluids, so does your vehicle's engine. Your internal organs guarantee good health by cleaning and filtering those fluids constantly. You can guarantee the good health of your vehicle's engine, by ensuring that its vital fluids are in the best possible condition.

The key is the efficiency of the filters that clean the engine (in effect, the engine's blood supply), the air that your engine breathes, the fuel from which it takes its energy, and the transmission fluid that enables the vehicle to move around smoothly.

Your owner's manual will explain in detail just when these various filters should be changed. Note that there are different recommended change intervals, depending on the type of driving you do.

For example, follow directions for the Severe Maintenance Schedule if your driving consists of:

- Short trips of less than 5 miles
- Short trips of less than 10 miles when outside temperatures remain below freezing
- Towing a trailer or camper, using a roof-top carrier, or carrying maximum loads
- Operating in severe dust conditions
- Stop and go driving.
- Excessive idling

For these "severe" driving conditions, experts recommend that both oil and oil filters should be changed every 3 months or 5,000 kilometres. With today's sophisticated engines with longer service intervals, manufacturers are beginning to market products that can meet the service challenge. The Fram® X2 Extended Guard™ filter, for example, is designed to last up to 11,000 kilometres and uses the latest in filter technology to hold up to 70% more dirt making it the ideal filter to partner with a synthetic oil change.

Handy oil drain

Two great product refinements are the Fram filter's no-slip, SureGRIP® feature that make it easier to handle during installation and removal, and the NEW Fram® SureDrain™ product. The Fram® SureDrain™ product consists of a handy assembly valve kit that replaces the standard vehicle drain plug. It lets you drain hot engine oil with just a turn of the wrist – no tools, no mess, no hassle, and it stays on your car for easy oil changes every time. What a great idea!

Winter brings with it a lot of flying grit and slush, so that your air filter has to work twice as hard.

Many mechanics choose Fram® Extra Life III air filters, which use an advanced Triad fibre technology to lock dirt into microscopic chambers, a technique that is said to hold up to 48 per cent more dirt than leading competitive round filters and 22 per cent for panel filters.

It's equally important that the fuel your vehicle burns is clean. Fuel injectors must be kept free of deposits to ensure proper atomization of the fuel. Otherwise, complete combustion will not occur, resulting in wasted fuel and increased exhaust emissions. For winter use, Prestone® Cold Start™ Fuel System Antifreeze & Cleaner will cleanup fuel injectors and carburetors, while its concentrated formula can also prevent gas line freeze.

Keep the fluids flowing freely and cleanly and you'll have found the secret of no-worry winter driving.

—News Canada




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