Extend the life of your car's tires with care

Tires take a beating all year long. During the winter months, they are subjected to snow, ice, freezing temperatures,

salt and gravel. Spring and summer bring on higher temperatures and an increase in ultraviolet rays, which can crack and dull a

tire's finish. If left untreated, not only do tires look worn and old, but they wear faster than necessary, causing a potential safety problem. Spring is the perfect time to take a look at tires in order to restore their appearance after a harsh winter and protect them for the upcoming summer.

Selecting the proper tire care product is an important part of year-round tire maintenance. While proper inflation pressure and regular rotation of tires are important steps consumers can take in prolonging tire life and increasing safety, these precautions primarily protect the tire tread. The tread, however, is not the only part of the tire sustaining wear.

Sidewalls are also prone to wear and tear from poor road conditions, weather, potholes and other factors.

It is important for consumers to use products which are formulated for rubber, not vinyl, on their tires. Vinyl protectants can cause long-term damage to tires, including drying and cracking of the sidewall and a browning effect on the finish.

Tires are a serious investment and deserve serious care. Proper care can help preserve that investment and give consumers the maximum wear and safety from their tires.

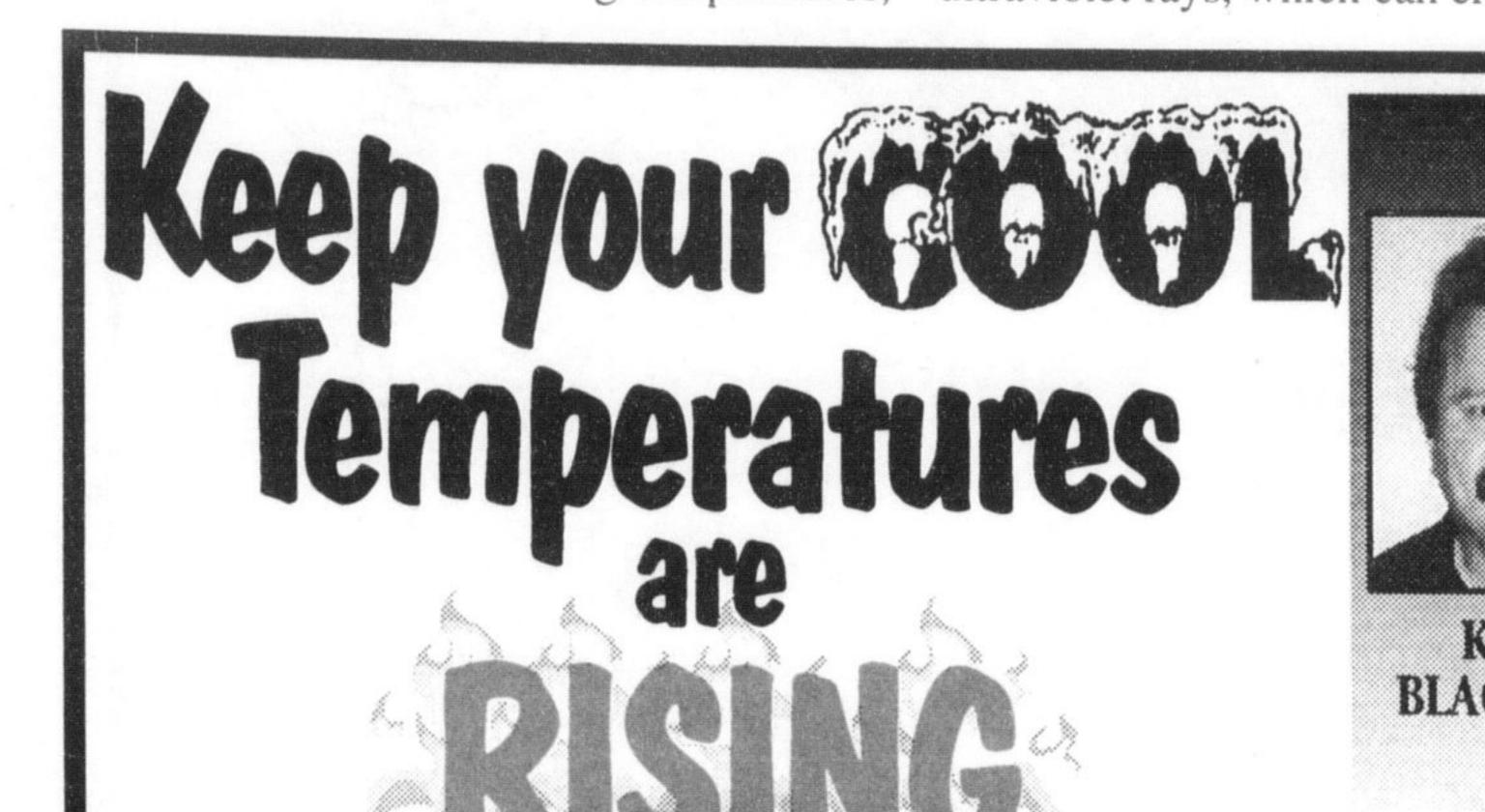
Keep your windows and mirrors clean

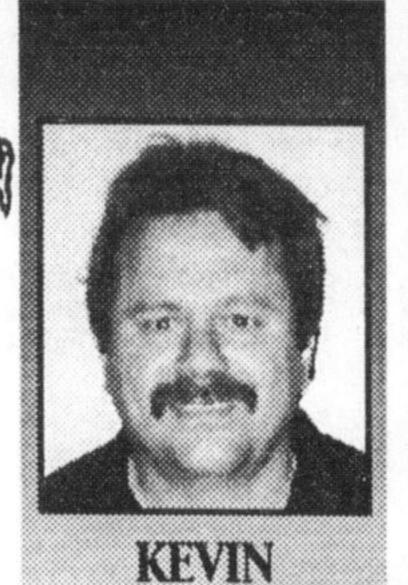
All glass surfaces of a vehicle should be cleaned on a regular basis or whenever visibility becomes reduced due to foreign matter on either the inside or outside of the windows. Failing to keep windows and windshield clean can produce a potential safety hazard.

According to automotive specialists at General Motors, you should never use abrasive cleaners on any vehicle glass, since they may cause scratches. If an abrasive cleaner is used on the inside of the rear window, electric defogger elements may be damaged. Also, decals should not be placed on the inside of the rear window, as they may have to be scrapped off later.

Windows can be cleaned with an ordinary liquid household glass cleaner. Such a cleaner will effectively remove normal build-up of tobacco smoke and dust film that may be caused by materials used in vinyls and plastics inside the vehicle.

If your windshield is not clear after using the windshield washer and wipers or if the wiper blade "chatters" when running, wax or other material may be on the blade or windshield. The GM auto specialists recommend the outside of the windshield be cleaned with a product such as Bon-Ami brand cleaner. The windshield is clean if beads do not form when rinsing with water. Wiper blades can be cleaned by wiping a cloth soaked in a solution of one-half water and one-half methanol alcohol. Rinse the blade with fresh water.





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