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Get a technician to check your exhaust system when checking your oil

You're driving along in that economical little car and it sounds like a fleet of gravel trucks.

But it doesn't have to be that way.

According to Car Care Canada, the main cause of falling mufflers is simply a broken clamp.

These can usually be replaced for what amounts to small change compared to the cost of a new exhaust system.

One warning sign is a clunking noise when you start to drive away. Just as you start to roll, you'll hear a series of clunks — you probably need a clamp tightened or replaced.

That sound is the exhaust system bouncing against the underside of your car and it's a good idea to get it fixed before something breaks off.

wiggle to make sure everything is firm and tight.

Have you ever seen a car driving along the highway trailing a stream of sparks? It looks

driver and for other people nearby.

Even if there is no leak, there's a chance that the pipe could catch something and turn into a spear, destroying the gas tank or parts of the suspension.

Exhaust system manufacturers have made a lot of progress, using more stainless steel (which is corro-

sion resistant) and more integrated systems (so there are fewer parts to separate or break off) to eliminate this problem as much as possible, but corrosion is still a possibili-

ty. One of the things that drivers can do to prolong the life of their exhaust system is to reduce the number of short trips they take.

If you have several things to do, save them up and make one longer errand out of several smaller ones. That way, your car (and your exhaust system) will warm up, saving fuel, reducing tailpipe emissions and eliminating the water in your exhaust that tends to cause corrosion from the inside out.

What's on exhaust systems, anyway?

It includes a muffler, which feeds the engine noise through a series of baffles to make it quieter, a catalytic converter, which reduces the tailpipe emissions and piping that connects these elements to the engine.

Some systems also contain a resonator, so your car sounds more like a mean muscle machine and less like a sewing machine.

Catalytic converters do wear out. Sometimes, they can be destroyed — for example, long periods of idling may "cook the catalyst" because the temperature in the exhaust will rise without any compensating airflow to cool things off.

So if you want to avoid a rumble, take good care of your exhaust system. Like so many other things, taking a little time to check can help you avoid big troubles and big expense.

This article was submitted by Automotive Industries Association of Canada.

The main cause of falling mufflers is simply a broken clamp. These can usually be replaced for what amounts to small change compared to the cost of a new exhaust system.

Every time you have your oil changed, make sure the technician checks the exhaust system too.

It only takes a few seconds to give it a quick look and a

(and sounds) like the rocket ship from an old Buck Rogers TV show, but it's no joke.

If there is any leak in the gas tank, those sparks could make things really interesting for the

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Worn out brake pads can cause damage to rotors

Your brake system should always be inspected as part of the normal routine of lube, oil, filter and tire rotation.

Safety is not the only reason for doing so, your bank account will be thankful as well. Worn out brake pads can cause serious damage to your brake rotors, which can be expensive to replace.

A car's braking system is much like the system on a bike.

Pulling on a bike's brake handle is like pushing a brake pedal.

The brake cable activates in the same way a hydraulic pressure is generated when you push on the brake pedal in your car.

The caliper on your car's brake is essentially the same as the clamping arm on your bike's brake and the rim of your bike's wheel performs the same function as the rotor in your vehicle's braking system.

The brake pad is pushed against the rotor to create the friction that slows you down.

When brake pads on your car wears down to where the backing plates, or rivets, are exposed, very serious damage can be done to the rotors. The metal on metal grinding at that point scores the rotors badly, usually requiring them to be replaced. This can be expensive for some vehicles.

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This article was submitted by Midas

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