

August

Wheels

Tire failure is the result of under- or overinflated tires

Tire failure is often the result of underinflated, worn or overinflated tires. Routine maintenance will reduce incidents of tire failure and allow you to accelerate, brake and steer your vehicle properly on the road.

Check the pressure of each tire, including your spare, at least once a month. Make sure they are inflated to the manufacturer's recommendations.

You can usually find the recommended pressures labeled inside the vehicle door frame (if not in the glove compartment). Pressure readings should be

taken when tires are cool and not after having travelled long distances.

Look for signs of wear. Tires that are worn unevenly may be an indication of poor wheel alignment, improper balance, worn out shock absorbers or underinflation. When a tire is underinflated, its outer tread edges makes more contact with the road causing it to wear at the

outer edges first.

The smooth edges of an underinflated tire may reduce your vehicle's traction, particularly on wet curves. Should the internal heat and pressure build up, there is the potential for a wheel fire. An overinflated tire can be identified by the wearing out of the centre of the tire.

Once you have inspected your tires, you may want to rotate them to ensure a more uniform wear. Rotating tires regularly will allow you to use your tires longer.

Instructions as to how and when to rotate your tires are available in your owner's manual. As a general

rule of thumb, two types of tires should never be on the same end of the vehicle.

Have your tires replaced when the tread has worn down to a depth of 1.5 mm or less.

If the wear bars are showing, the tire should have been replaced a long time ago.

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Turn on heater to cool engine when vehicle is overheating

Hot weather means hard work for your vehicle's cooling system, especially in July and August - the hottest months of the year.

And sitting idle in rush-hour traffic with temperatures topping the 32°C mark doesn't help.

However, if you do get caught in that situation and you notice the temperature gauge beginning to rise, the national Automotive Radiator Service Association said there are some things you can do to try to keep your vehicle cool.

✓ Give it a little gas
This will enable the vehicle to get rid of

some of the engine heat.

✓ Turn on the heater.

The heater will draw some of the heat from the engine to the inside of the vehicle.

✓ Turn off the vehicle.

Once you safely have pulled off the road, turn off the vehicle to let the engine cool down.

✓ Have your vehicle inspected.

Experts can target cooling system problems, which could range from a clogged radiator core to low engine coolant to an inoperable engine fan.

Performing regular maintenance, adds life to used vehicle

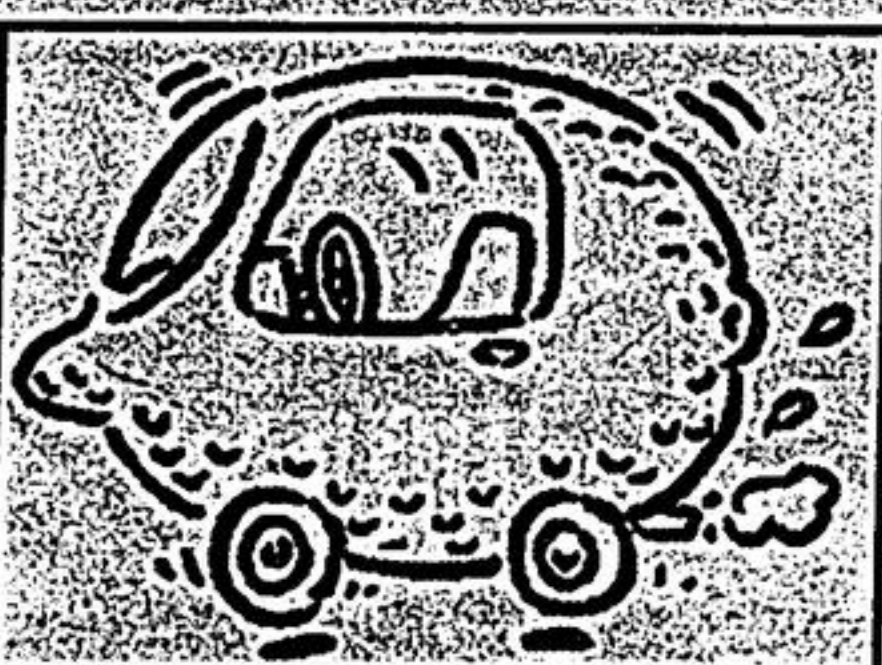
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When buying a used car, the first money you spend should be on the services of a trained automotive technician to look over your prospective purchase. Your technician can help you spot discrepancies that the untrained eye might never catch.

This ounce of prevention will not only help you to avoid making a bad purchase, it will also help you to determine what, if anything, you can expect to spend on repairs soon after you become the new owner.

A drive belt, radiator hose, battery, brakes, or a couple of tires are all typical items which might soon need repair.

Armed with the knowledge of these impending repairs, you may be able to have some extra bargaining power with the vehicle's current owner.



Avoid getting a 'lemon,' have the vehicle inspected prior to purchasing it.

A car with worn or damaged fabric that is still in good operating condition may still be a good investment.

Burns and tears can usually be repaired by an upholstery shop at a reasonable price.

Once you have made your decision and purchased a previously owned vehicle, remember to do the basic preventative maintenance at regular intervals.

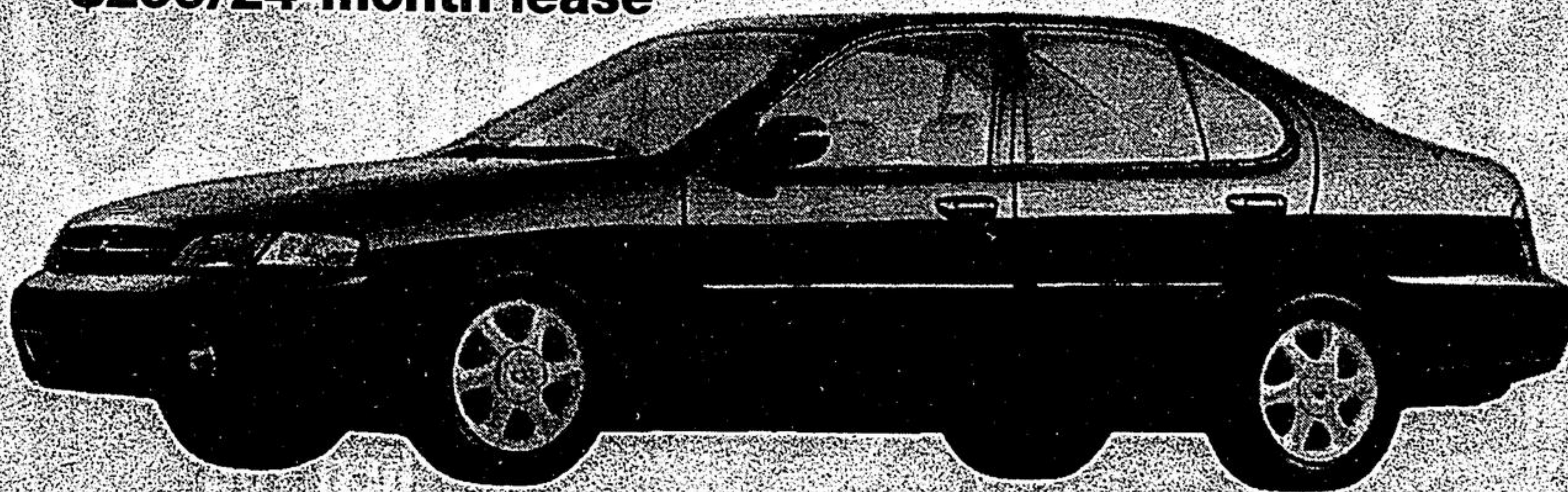
Clean oil, a fresh oil filter and a properly-tuned engine cost very little, but add thousands of kilometres to the life of your vehicle.

And be wary of the vehicle seller, either private or at a dealership, who resists a professional inspection - it may mean they have something to hide.

A professional opinion can be valuable in estimating interior repairs, too.

A car with worn or damaged fabric that is

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