

Oil treatments have proven to be the most effective when it comes to rust proofing your vehicle

(SOP) One item that ranks high on the agenda of car care is to have the car rust proofed. There are scores of companies claiming to offer the best protection. But in order to choose a rust proofing system or garage one must know what to look for.

First, check the name of the company in question. While name alone is no guarantee of satisfaction, a name brand product or service will at least have a reputation that can be checked.

Second, find out exactly what kind of product the company intends to apply to your vehicle. The three basic styles of treatment that are widely used are sealants, oils and chemicals. All possess different qualities and offer different levels of effectiveness.

Sealant style rust proofing includes treatments that are based in tar, grease, wax and silicone. These treatments are intended to give a thick barrier that salt and moisture cannot penetrate.

If applied thoroughly, this sort of treatment will provide adequate protection to the floor boards of the car until the

product dries out and begins to fall away.

When treating the doors, hood, trunk or any other part of the car where metal contacts metal, sealants do not fair well.

The thick consistency of the sealant products will not work its way between layers of welded steel. These welded seams, such as on the bottoms of car doors, are areas most prone to serious rust damage.

Oil treatments have become very popular and have proven to be far more effective than sealant style rust proofing. The effectiveness of oil is largely due to its thinner consistency which is able to run and spread into many more seamed areas of the car. The oil leaves behind a barrier that will last a year.

Many people like to wait until just before the first snow fall before treating the car. By this time however, the weather is cold and damp as are the inner panels of the car. This situation seriously impedes the effectiveness of an oil spray. The best time to have an oil spray applied is in spring or summer.

The oil will adhere more readily to a dry surface and is thinner in warmer temperatures allowing it to spread more

effectively.

Chemical treatments are gaining popularity as they offer the most complete protection. These thin oil-like treatments have special additives that allow them to creep into the tightest of spaces for more complete coverage.

Chemical emulsifiers and rust inhibitors are also added. These chemicals will displace moisture that may be trapped within a seamed area and even check the progression of existing rust.

No matter how effective any particular product might be, it can only be as effective as the person applying it. Rust proofing outfits claiming to offer a complete treatment without drilling any holes should not be considered.

It is true that some areas of a vehicle may be treated by removing pieces of trim. However, to thoroughly treat all the critical areas, supplemental holes should be drilled.

When selecting a brand of rust proofing be sure to call ahead and ask questions. Making an informed decision is the best way to avoid dissatisfaction down the road.



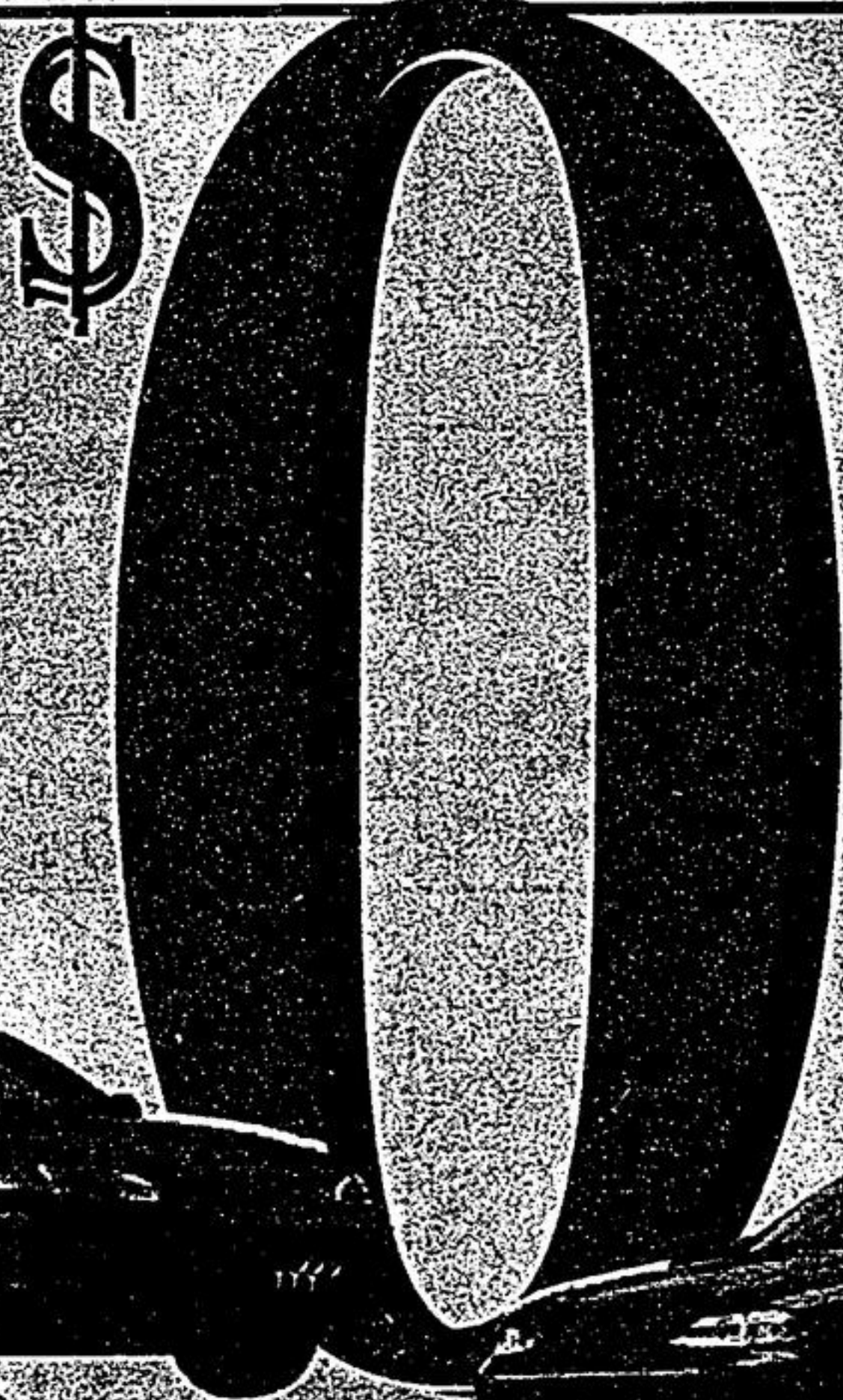
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You have a moral responsibility to assist people in a crash

FROM PAGE 21

If you're not personally involved, you have a moral responsibility to assist as needed.

- Exchange information. Get both driver and passenger names, addresses and telephone numbers, as well as driver's licence information, names of insurance companies and vehicle registration information.

- Obtain witness information. Get names, addresses and telephone numbers.

- Notify your insurance representative promptly to ensure proper claims filing.

- Don't argue, admit fault or sign any statement until given legal counsel.

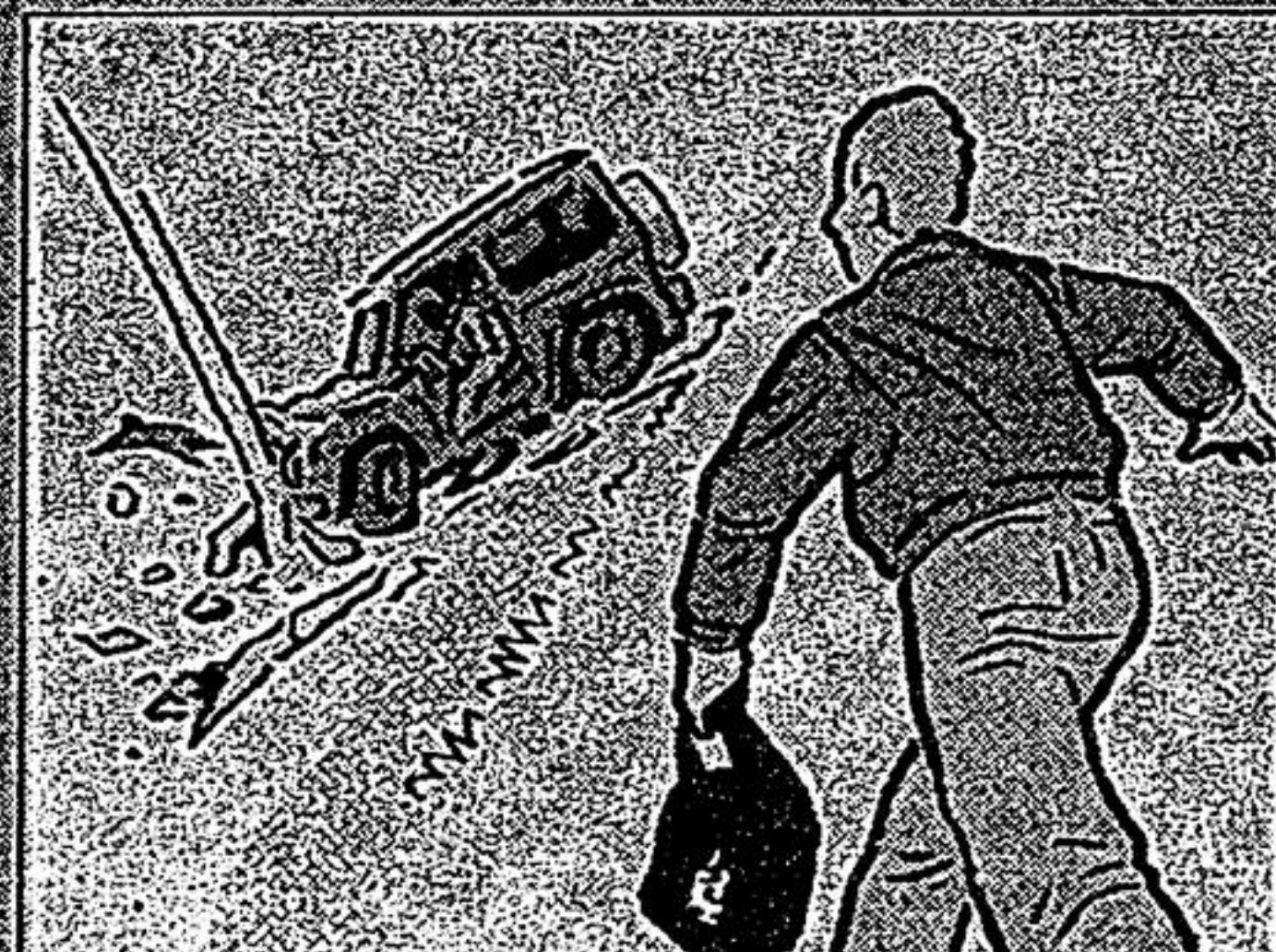
- Inform the owner of unattended vehicles or property. If you cannot locate the owner, attach a note to the vehicle or property containing the essential information.

- If there are any major injuries, you are required to wait at the accident scene until a police officer arrives. In some cities in Ontario, you'll be asked to go to the nearest Collision Reporting Centre. There are three CRCs in Metro Toronto, one in Barrie and one in London.

IF YOU'RE A WITNESS TO A CRASH

- Notify the authorities. Call 911.
- Know the details. Provide vital information such as exact location of the crash and whether there are any injured.

- Do not hang up until the dispatcher hangs up. You may be told how to care for the injured parties until help arrives.



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- Park your vehicle on the same side on the road, in front of the crash scene and at the side of the street. Turn off the engine, switch on the emergency flashers, lock the car and take the keys with you.

- Alert oncoming traffic. Set road flares at least 300 feet behind the crash scene, or use reflectors if it's daytime. Never attempt to direct traffic on a highway.

- Reduce the chance of fire. If possible, turn off the ignitions of the crash vehicles.

- Assist victims. Provide help first to the seriously injured. Do not move any victims unless there is immediate danger from traffic or fire. Cover victims with coats or blankets. If you've had first aid training, administer CPR if victims are not breathing.

- Remain at the scene until help arrives. Being near the injured and offering encouragement is reassuring—even if you don't think they can hear you.

St. John Ambulance teaches first aid, CPR and health promotion with a focus on safety. For more information on safety on the road, contact your local St. John Ambulance club.