

WHEELS

Check your vehicle before the family vacation

Following a simple checklist could help you avoid big problems down the road

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Economist & Sun

Stouffville Tribune

Planning to explore Canada in your car during your summer vacation?

Or are you driving to the cottage this summer?

Canada is a beautiful country, and there is so much to see and do on your summer vacation, but if your family vehicle will be used on this trip have it checked out before you leave. It could

mean the difference between an economical family vacation and a disastrously expensive one.

Like most Canadians you probably experienced a relatively mild winter, so you may be tempted to think that your regular spring maintenance on your vehicle isn't required. Think again.

The winter months, no matter how

mild, can cause normal deterioration of certain vehicle parts, such as rubber hoses and belts, exhaust brackets and fluid level depletion among others.

If you are one of the millions of Canadians who will be vacationing in your family vehicle, Car Care Canada recommends you follow this simple advice and avoid the last minute-rush

for needed maintenance or repairs.

It could save you time and money. Planning pays off.

Before you leave on your trip, have the following systems checked and serviced as needed:

- Cooling system
- Engine system, including an oil and filter change

- Engine and Electrical system
- Under car, including brake and exhaust systems, tires, suspension and wheel alignment

- Transmission, verify fluid levels, etc.

- Lights
- Windshield wipers

And don't forget the interior and exterior appearance of your vehicle. Family travel can be hard on a vehicle.

For example, a minor upholstery tear can turn into a gaping hole during a family vacation.

A hole in the carpet at the accelerator pedal can become a safety hazard if it catches your heel in an emergency.

A dragging mud guard can turn into a dangerous projectile for the car behind you. Consider repairing these minor problems before you leave so that they don't become major problems on the trip.

It's really quite simple, practising these simple preventative maintenance techniques can save you lots of time and money on your vacation.

Replacing a bracket on your exhaust system before you leave will cost you under \$20, replacing your entire muffler on your vacation will cost you considerably more money, as well as a great deal of your vacation time.

Car Care Canada wishes you a safe and fun vacation.

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