

CAR CARE FOR SPRING

Take pride in your ride!



Top 3 car care apps

Do you want to simplify the way you care for your car? Here are three applications that can help.

1. DRIVVO

Use this app to record vehicle expenses, including service costs and gas purchases. Drivvo organizes all inputted data into user-friendly lists, charts and graphs. Having this information at your fingertips allows you to stay on top of car care tasks and know the precise costs associated with maintaining your vehicle.

2. CARFAX CAR CARE

This app allows you to access the maintenance schedule for your car's make and model and lets you track your auto repair history. In addition, it tells you about any safety recalls for your vehicle and can even remind you when your registration needs to be renewed.

3. FUELLY

With Fuely, you can track your car's mileage and receive detailed fuel consumption data. This allows you to monitor vehicle performance and take proactive steps at the first sign of faltering fuel efficiency.

These are just some of the many apps that make car care easier. All of them are available for both iOS and Android devices.



How to clean and organize your car's trunk and cabin

When spring arrives, it's time to put away your winter car accessories, air out your car cabin and thoroughly clean the interior of your vehicle. It's also the perfect time to consider storage solutions. Here are a few tips.

CLEAN

After vacuuming the seats and floor mats, remove calcium rings from the carpets and dust the dashboard and plastic mouldings. If you have leather seats, now is the time to oil them to keep them looking new.

Moreover, you should freshen up and remove unpleasant odours from your floor mats using a steamer. If you want sparkling clean windows, wipe the inside in one direction and the outside in the other to ensure you didn't miss any spots.

ORGANIZE

If you want to keep the inside of your vehicle tidy on your next family road trip, fit the seats with practical organizers to store reusable shopping bags, books, tissues, water bottles and more.

You can also purchase trunk and sun visor organizers as well as a host of other useful accessories including folding and hanging bins. In addition, you may want to invest in a few clip-on cup holders to help prevent empty bottles, cans and cups from rolling around on the floor.

To find the perfect cleaning products and storage accessories for your car, visit your local stores.

How to sanitize your car cabin

If you share your car, drive for Uber or give rides to friends and family members, sanitizing your vehicle is a must. Here's a brief guide to eliminating viruses from your car's interior.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

When cleaning your vehicle, make sure to wear protective gloves and a mask to guard against virus transmission.

BE THOROUGH

Make sure to clean all high-touch surfaces. This includes the steering wheel, turn signal lever, seatbelts, cupholders, sun visors, door handles (inner and outer), armrests, radio and center console. If the weather permits, it's also a good idea to open your windows to air out the cabin.

USE THE RIGHT PRODUCTS

Use a disinfectant with at least 70 percent alcohol to sanitize the hard surfaces in your vehicle. This includes the dashboard, glove compartment and stereo.

For fabric and leather seats and features, opt for a gentle cleaning solution of dish soap and water. Scrub the fabric or leather well with a microfiber cloth. However, be careful not to soak fabric seats, as this can encourage mold growth in the cushions.

Taking these steps will help ensure that your car is safe to ride in for you and your passengers.



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5 windshield wiper tips

Your windshield wipers allow you see when driving in rainy or dirty conditions. Here are a few tips for maintaining your wiper blades.

1. Don't use your wipers on a dry windshield. This can cause the rubber to prematurely wear.
2. Regularly clean your wiper blades with a cloth soaked in windshield washer fluid to keep them in good condition.
3. Don't allow dirt to accumulate on your windshield. This can damage your wiper

blades. Make sure you wash your windshield often, especially after driving on muddy roads.

4. Replace your windshield wipers every six months to ensure optimal visibility when driving.
5. Keep an eye out for signs of wear and tear on your wiper blades to avoid unpleasant surprises on the road. If your wipers squeak, chatter, skip, smear or streak, change them immediately. Additionally, if you feel cracks or tears along the rubber part of the blade, it's time for a new set of wipers.

Do you need new wiper blades? Visit your local auto parts retailer to find the model you need.



4 signs you should get your brakes checked

When it comes to vehicle safety, your car's braking system plays a crucial role. Here are four signs that you need to get your brakes professionally serviced.

1. UNUSUAL NOISES

Brake pads have built-in wear indicators that produce a high-pitched squeal when the pads wear down. As soon as you hear this sound — you can't mistake it! — you need to get your brake pads replaced.

2. VIBRATIONS

It's normal for your brake system and other car components to pulse and vibrate when you slam on the brakes. However, if your brakes vibrate when applied normally, this is a major red flag. In most cases, brake shudder is caused by an unevenly worn brake rotor.

3. PULLING

If your car pulls to the left or right, it's likely due to uneven tire pressure, incorrect wheel alignment or a problem with the brake system. If it's the brakes, you may have a stuck caliper, collapsed brake hose or uneven brake pads.

4. SPONGY PEDAL

If your pedal feels mushy or you have to apply extra pressure when braking, this is usually an indication that the brake fluid isn't flowing properly. Replacing the brake fluid typically corrects this issue.

Finally, note that experts recommend car owners get their brakes checked every six months.



What's included in a standard car tune-up

Do you want to know more about what happens when you get your car serviced? Here are some of the main tasks a mechanic performs during a tune-up.

CHANGE THE FILTERS

Your vehicle is equipped with oil, fuel, air and cabin air filters. Their primary function is to prevent contaminants from damaging components in the engine or other vehicle systems. During a tune-up, your mechanic will check the various filters and replace them if needed.

REPLACE THE FLUIDS

The fluids in your car, including the engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, transmission fluid and power steering fluid, are essential. In fact, they're responsible for keeping your car running smoothly. It's important to change these fluids at regular intervals to prevent potential breakdowns and damage to the engine.

SERVICE THE PARTS

Your car's ignition system is made up of a variety of electrical components that are susceptible to wear and tear. Issues with the ignition parts can result in the engine misfiring or not starting at all. During a tune-up, your mechanic will check to see whether the spark plugs, ignition wires and



ignition coils are in good condition or need to be replaced.

CHECK THE DIAGNOSTICS

When an issue occurs with the engine, your vehicle's on-board diagnostics (OBD) system stores a repair code that can only be read by a specialized scanner. During a tune-up, your mechanic will scan the OBD system for repair codes in order to address potential engine problems.

To sum up, scheduled maintenance helps ensure that your car runs smoothly and may prevent unexpected breakdowns and the need for costly repairs.

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5 tips for maintaining your idle car

Even if you don't regularly drive your car, it's important to attend to its upkeep. Here are five tips for maintaining your vehicle while it sits idle.

1. CHARGE THE BATTERY

The electrical systems in today's cars continue to draw on the battery even when the engine is off. To ensure that your battery doesn't suddenly die, let your car run for at least five minutes every two or three weeks. It's best if you actually drive the car, so take it for a spin around the block. Alternatively, you can invest in a battery maintainer.

2. CHANGE THE OIL

Continue to change your oil at the recommended time intervals. Oil deteriorates over time, regardless of whether or not you drive your car regularly.

3. FILL UP THE GAS

A full tank of gas prevents harmful condensation from building up in the tank. It also keeps the gaskets and seals from getting dry and brittle. You may also

want to consider adding a fuel stabilizer to prevent the gas from breaking down.

4. LOOK AFTER THE TIRES

If a car remains parked in the same spot for too long, the tires can develop flat spots. It's therefore important to move your car periodically, even if it's just a couple of feet. Also, before operating a car that has been idle for a while, always check the air in the tires using a tire pressure gauge.

5. WASH THE EXTERIOR

To protect your car's paint job and prevent rusting, regularly wash away the dirt and debris that builds up over time. Alternatively, consider investing in a quality car cover.

Finally, you should continue to have your car professionally serviced according to your vehicle's maintenance schedule. This will help ensure that your car is road-ready when you next get behind the wheel.

Essential tools for vehicle maintenance

Do you know how to perform basic car maintenance tasks like removing a tire, replacing a light bulb and changing the oil? If so, here are a few tools you should have on hand:

- A ratcheting wrench to secure parts
- A torque wrench to tighten fasteners
- A pressure gauge to check your tire pressure
- Pliers and wire cutters to replace or install electronic components
- A spotlight to see under the hood and carriage
- A set of screwdrivers with multiple bits
- A tool tray to keep everything organized

- A set of jacks, ramps and stanchions to safely lift your vehicle

Visit your local hardware or auto parts store to get all the tools you need.

Does your vehicle need major repairs? If so, enlist the services of a professional mechanic.



Tire quiz

Test your car knowledge with this short quiz about tires. Good luck!

1. AT WHAT TEMPERATURE DO SUMMER TIRES START TO GRIP THE ROAD?

- A. 36 F
- B. 45 F
- C. 54 F

2. WHERE SHOULD YOU STORE YOUR WINTER TIRES?

- A. In a cool, dry and dark place
- B. Outside, under a tarp
- C. Anywhere

3. HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU CHECK YOUR TIRE PRESSURE?

- A. Every month
- B. When you change your tires
- C. Every time you get gas

4. WHY SHOULD YOU NOT DRIVE WITH WINTER TIRES IN THE SUMMER?

- A. They have less traction on the road, which increases fuel consumption
- B. They could burst due to sun exposure
- C. They have a longer braking distance than summer tires
- D. All of the above

5. WHAT CAN CAUSE YOUR TIRES TO WEAR OUT PREMATURELY?

- A. Inadequate tire pressure
- B. Poor alignment
- C. Faulty suspension
- D. All of the above

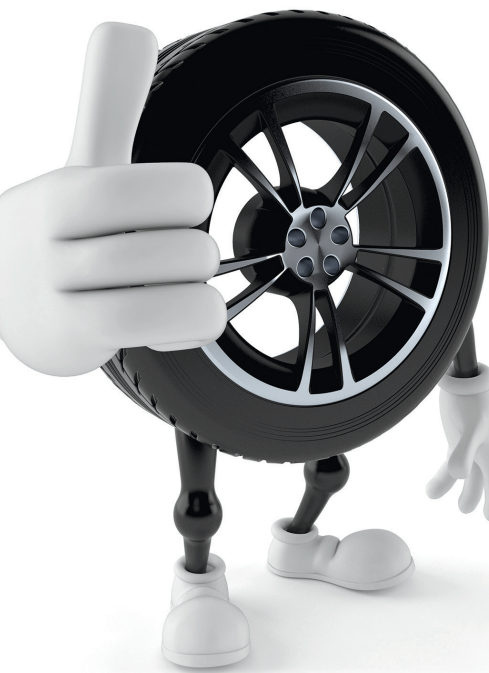
6. WHAT'S THE RECOMMENDED MINIMUM TIRE TREAD DEPTH?

- A. 3/32 inch
- B. 2/32 inch
- C. 6/32 inch

7. IN WHAT MONTH SHOULD YOU INSTALL WINTER TIRES?

- A. October
- B. December
- C. November

ANSWERS
1-B, 2-A, 3-A, 4-D, 5-D, 6-B, 7-C



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7 things on your car you should check in spring

After a long, cold winter, you should inspect your vehicle and make sure it's in good condition. Here are seven things to check.

1. TIRES

Before installing your summer tires, assess the tread depth. If it's less than 6/32 inches, invest in a new set. Once your summer tires are installed, inflate them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Additionally, inspect your winter tires before storing them. If the wear is uneven, visit a mechanic for an alignment check.

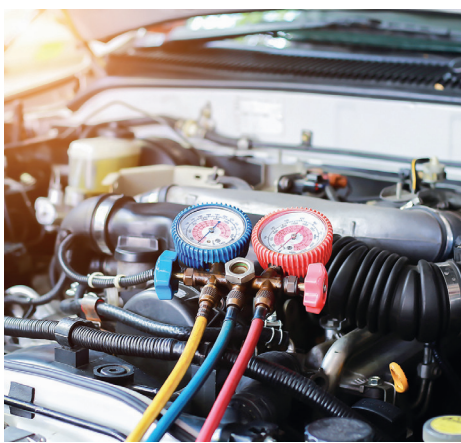
2. FLUIDS

Depending on when your car was last serviced and the number of miles you drove over the winter, you may need to change the oil. Additionally, top up the coolant, brake fluid and windshield washer fluids.



3. FILTERS

Determine if the engine or cabin air filter is clogged with dirt. If so, clean or replace them.



4. AIR CONDITIONING

Don't wait until there's a heatwave to ensure your air conditioning system is working.

5. WINDSHIELD WIPERS

If applicable, swap your winter wiper blades for summer ones. Additionally, if your windshield wipers are cracked and worn, invest in a new set.

6. BODYWORK

After thoroughly washing your vehicle, check for rust. If you notice any corrosion, repair it immediately.

7. CABIN AND TRUNK

Clean the interior of your car, and make sure to organize your emergency kit, put away seasonal items and replace anything that's outdated in your first aid kit.

Additionally, it's a good idea to schedule a full inspection with your mechanic to ensure your car didn't suffer any damage over the winter.

How to choose the right mechanic



If your car needs a tune-up, it can be difficult to find a mechanic you trust. Whether you turn to a dealership, private mechanic or franchised repair shop, you should inquire about the following:

- Warranty options
- Available automotive equipment
- Hours of operation
- Services offered
- Hourly rates
- Environmental practices
- Employee training and qualifications

Additionally, it's a good idea to read customer reviews to see if there are any complaints about the shop.

Whether you speak directly with the mechanic or a member of the front desk staff, make sure they take the time to clearly explain what's going on with your vehicle. It's a good sign if they can tell you which repairs must be done immediately and which ones can wait. If the person you

talk to can't be bothered to explain everything to you in detail, you may want to try another shop.

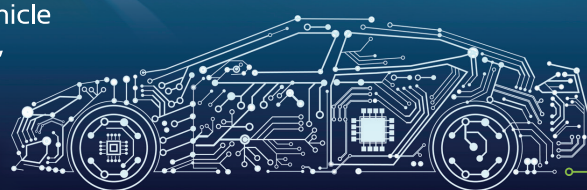
IS YOUR VEHICLE STILL UNDER WARRANTY?

Even if your car is still under warranty, you can go to any mechanic for basic maintenance tasks like oil changes. Just make sure you follow the standards outlined in your owner's manual. However, keep in mind that only dealerships can honor warranties. They're also the most knowledgeable about mechanical issues and recalls that could affect the make and model of your specific vehicle.

Even if you trust your mechanic, you may be better off hiring a specialist to repair your windshield, muffler, transmission or air conditioning.

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6 advantages of driving an electric vehicle

Electric vehicles (EVs) are praised for being eco-friendly. However, they have more going for them than simply being good for the environment. Here are six good reasons to invest in an electric car.

1. INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

EVs are equipped with the latest safety features and entertainment technologies. They also incorporate eco-friendly materials.

2. SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

Electric cars offer instant torque, which makes it easy to accelerate and safely pass other motorists. Moreover, EVs have a lower centre of gravity than conventional vehicles, making them more stable and less likely to roll over.

3. CONVENIENT PERKS

If you drive an EV, you'll gain priority access to reserved lanes and parking lots. This can save you a considerable amount of time and make it easier to find parking.

4. EASY CHARGING

Electric cars don't run on gas. Therefore, you don't need to stop at a gas station to refuel. You can simply recharge your vehicle at home or at a charging station on the road.



5. LOW MAINTENANCE

Electric motors undergo less wear and tear than gasoline engines. Additionally, electric engines have fewer moving parts than conventional ones and don't require as much maintenance.

6. SUPERIOR RELIABILITY

Electric engines don't stall. This is partly due to not having a clutch. Therefore, if you live in a cold climate, you don't have to worry about your vehicle not starting in sub-zero temperatures.

To schedule a test drive, contact an EV dealer near you.

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