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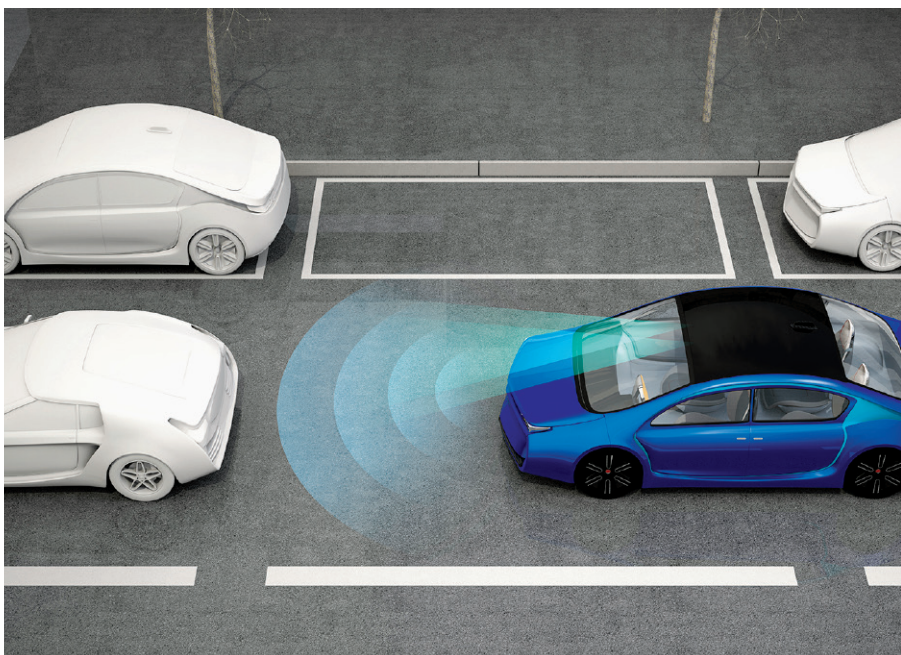
How often do you clean your outdoor sensors?

Cameras and sensors are becoming common features on new cars, providing advanced driver benefits like collision prevention and lane-changing assistance. Here's what you can do to keep them working for you.

Dirty sensors are ineffective. As a result, you lose the road safety benefits these technological tools are designed to provide, putting yourself and others at risk.

In addition, if you regularly rely on these systems to perform certain maneuvers, like backing up, you may run into trouble if they're too dirty to provide reliable guidance.

Before hitting the road, ensure your car's sensors and cameras are clean. In summer, mud and dust — especially on gravel roads — can obscure them as quickly as snow and slush in winter. Take care!



3 tips for taking a road trip in an electric vehicle



Do you want to take your electric vehicle on a road trip this summer? Imagine the distance you can cover, taking in landscapes and exploring locations you've never seen before. Keep these three tips in mind as you prepare for your adventure.

1. SCOPE OUT CHARGING STATIONS

Do some research before your trip to identify where you can charge your car. Use those points as pit stops for a meal break, a quick stretch or an overnight stay. Look for a convenient phone app indicating available charging stations along your route.

2. LEAVE HOME WITH A FULL CHARGE

While charging your car to 100% daily can negatively affect battery efficiency over time, it's best to start your trip with maximum energy. You'll be able to travel a

greater distance before having to plug in. It'll also give you peace of mind in case you have to make an unplanned detour.

3. ADOPT GOOD DRIVING HABITS

Your electric vehicle's battery capacity depends on several factors, including your driving speed and acceleration. Exceeding the speed limit or driving aggressively can cause your battery to drain faster. It's best for your car if you take your time, and it'll give you more time to take in the scenery.

Finally, as with any vehicle, it's wise to have your electric car professionally inspected before departure. Before taking to the highway, have a mechanic check your tire pressure, brakes, headlights, turn signals, windshield and wiper blades.

Avoid emotional driving this fall

You've probably heard about the dangers of road rage, but did you know that other emotions can compromise your safety behind the wheel? Anger, anxiety and even joy can lead to unsafe driving practices. Here are some ways to prevent your feelings from overriding your decision-making while on the road.

BEWARE OF POSITIVE ENERGY

It's not only negative emotions that can adversely affect your driving. It's easy to get a little too relaxed when you're cruising with friends or eager to share some good news with your family. Your road trip playlist may put you in a great mood but can also make your foot a little heavier on the gas pedal. Enjoy your drive, but don't let yourself get distracted.

CHECK YOURSELF

BEFORE TURNING THE KEY

When you get behind the wheel, take a few deep breaths to ground yourself before

starting the engine. Be mindful of any circumstances that may cause excitement, irritation or concern. Then, take a moment to consciously shift your attention to the task of driving.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE ROAD CONDITIONS

Manage your expectations by checking traffic reports and weather forecasts before setting out. If the prospect of driving in heavy traffic or stormy conditions makes you anxious, consider an alternative plan. If you have no choice but to drive, try some relaxation techniques to calm your mind before hitting the road.

GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME

Impatience or fear of showing up late for an appointment can lead to anger and irrational decisions while you drive. If you must be at your destination at a fixed time, set out early enough to allow for unexpected delays. If getting there on



time is optional, try to make peace with the possibility of showing up later than you'd like.

Keeping your car in good condition will reduce your distractions on the road. When did you last have a tune-up?

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Road safety: 6 important tasks

October is Fall Car Care Month. Every year, the Car Care Council takes this opportunity to remind motorists of the importance of regular vehicle maintenance. Here are six key actions you can take to stay safe on the road.

1. INSPECT ALL FLUIDS

Check and top up all fluids as needed. This includes the motor and transmission oils, coolant and brake fluid. You can also take this opportunity to replenish your windshield washer fluid.

2. TEST THE BATTERY

Get your battery tested by a professional to ensure it's working properly. This task is particularly important if you have trouble starting your car or don't drive it very often.

3. CHECK THE BRAKES

Inspect your brakes at least twice a year to ensure optimal performance. Conducting regular checks will help you identify minor

wear and tear and determine when your brakes need to be replaced.

4. EXAMINE THE TIRES

Assess the condition of your summer and winter tires by measuring the thickness of the treads, verifying the manufacture date and checking for signs of wear. This will help you determine if they can last another season or need to be replaced.

5. REPLACE THE WIPER BLADES

Ideally, you should replace your wiper blades about once a year. This will improve your visibility on the road, no matter the weather.

6. TEST THE LIGHTS

Periodically test your turn signals, headlights, taillights and dashboard lights to ensure they're functioning correctly.

Do you feel uncertain about carrying out some of these tasks? Entrust your vehicle maintenance to a mechanic in your area.



4 tips for driving on gravel roads

Driving on gravel roads can be challenging, especially if you're not used to it. Here are four essential tips for driving on gravel roads to ensure you have a safe and smooth journey.

1. Slow down. The key to driving on gravel is to reduce your speed. The loose rocks and uneven surfaces on gravel roads can be unpredictable. Slowing down allows

you to maintain better control of your vehicle and react to unexpected obstacles or changes in road conditions.

2. Maintain a safe following distance. Gravel roads create more dust and debris, greatly reducing visibility. Therefore, increasing the distance between you and the vehicle in front of you is a good idea. This'll give you more time to react if the

vehicle kicks up rocks or encounters an obstacle.

3. Avoid sudden maneuvers. You can easily lose traction when driving aggressively on gravel roads. As a rule of thumb, accelerate gradually and avoid taking sharp turns or braking abruptly so you don't spin out.

4. Drive in the tracks of other vehicles. Drive in the middle of the road or the tracks left by other tires. Avoid driving on loose or deep gravel, as it can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

When driving on gravel roads, patience and attentiveness are key. Take your time, be aware of your surroundings and adapt your driving style accordingly.



7 tips for using a self-service car wash

Self-service car washes provide a convenient, affordable way to keep your vehicle clean. If you've never been to one before, don't worry. Most self-service stations are relatively similar and straightforward to use. Here are seven tips to help you achieve sparkling results.

1. Know the appropriate payment method. Some self-service car washes take coins, whereas others take only cards. Make sure you come prepared with the correct payment method.
2. Choose the right time of day. Visit the self-service car wash outside peak hours to avoid waiting in a long line. Early mornings or weekdays are generally less crowded.
3. Park your vehicle correctly. Make sure you park your car in the middle of the wash bay, leaving enough room to walk around on all sides. That way, you can get at all the nooks and crannies.
4. Pre-rinse your vehicle. Rinse down your entire vehicle with clean water to remove loose dirt, dust and debris. Make sure to rinse out the wheel wells and undercarriage.
5. Wash your vehicle. Many self-service wash stations have soap brushes to scrub your vehicle clean. Divide your car into manageable sections and clean each one thoroughly before moving on to the next.
6. Rinse and dry your vehicle. After washing each section, thoroughly rinse off the soap to prevent a scummy film. Some car washes offer an "air dry" function. However, not all. It's best to come prepared with a microfiber towel or chamois to dry off your car for a streak-free shine.

What are you waiting for? Give your car a good wash down!

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How to safely pass a heavy vehicle



Do you want to pass a semi-truck or bus? Heavy vehicles have more blind spots than standard vehicles. Their drivers also need more time and space to brake and maneuver. Therefore, you must adapt your driving when sharing the road. Follow these tips to safely pass one of these vehicles.

Before passing

- Make sure you have enough time and space. It's not like overtaking a car.
- Signal your intention to pass.
- Make sure the driver of the heavy vehicle can see you. If you can't see one of the vehicle's side mirrors, the driver can't see you either.
- Use your windshield wipers at maximum speed if it's raining or snowing.

While passing

- Accelerate sufficiently, while following

the speed limit, to avoid remaining in the driver's blind spot for too long.

- Hold the steering wheel firmly to combat the effect of turbulence. This effect is always present but more noticeable in bad weather. It can kick up swirls of rain or snow, considerably reducing your visibility.

After passing

- Move back into your lane only when you can see the entire heavy vehicle in your rear-view mirror. This ensures you keep a safe distance and avoid cutting the driver off.

Finally, remember that you should never overtake a heavy vehicle that's turning right at an intersection. It may have to take up part of the left lane to make the turn. Drive safely!

What are the signs of a tire puncture?

Do you think one of your tires has a puncture? Here are a few signs that could confirm your diagnosis:

- The tire deflates
- The steering wheel vibrates
- The vehicle pulls to one side or is difficult to handle



FAST PUNCTURE

This type of puncture occurs suddenly and is often accompanied by a loud bang or flapping noise. It's hard not to notice! A fast puncture is often caused by a violent impact or a sharp object. If this happens, pull over and safely change your tire or call a tow truck.

tely apparent because the tire deflates gradually. A slow puncture is often caused by a hole or tear in the tread. Make an appointment at a nearby repair shop to find out for sure.

SLOW PUNCTURE

Slow punctures aren't always immedia-

Driving on a flat tire is dangerous and can cause extensive damage to your tire and your car. Make sure to act quickly.



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