

# CAR CARE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

A Special Advertising Supplement to

THE MORNING JOURNAL



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# 4 simple ways to extend the life of your vehicle

Automobiles are significant investments. According to Kelley Blue Book, the average transaction price for light vehicles was \$34,968 in January 2017, marking a 3 percent increase from just a year earlier.

The decision to spend tens of thousands of dollars on a new vehicle is not one consumers should take lightly. Once drivers purchase their new vehicles, they can protect their investments and get greater returns on those investments by prioritizing maintenance and taking simple yet effective steps to extend the lives of their cars and trucks.

## 1. DRIVE DEFENSIVELY.

Aggressive driving is dangerous and can have adverse effects on a vehicle. When driving, always obey posted speed limits and avoid accelerating and decelerating quickly. Such a style of driving can strain vehicle engines and drive trains while negatively affecting fuel efficiency and wearing

down brakes, states the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence.

## 2. MAINTAIN A CLEAN VEHICLE.

Car washes do more than just clean a vehicle. Routine washing and waxing can remove dirt that, if left on a vehicle, can gradually scratch paint and contribute to chips and rust. Over time, rust can affect vehicle performance and may even compromise the safety of drivers and their passengers if bad enough frame rust affects structural integrity. Routine washing also can remove road salt from vehicles. Salt can build up during winter when roads are routinely treated during and after snowstorms. Road salt can be extremely corrosive and, if left unremoved from a vehicle, can contribute to rust that ultimately can cause extensive damage to a vehicle.

## 3. ROUTINELY CHECK TIRE PRESSURE.

Many of today's new vehicles alert drivers when tire pressure is low. Drivers should not ignore such warn-



ings, as low tire pressure can affect engine performance by forcing it to work harder than should be necessary. Engines that are forced to work harder than they need to likely won't last as long as those that run efficiently. Low tire pressure also negatively affects fuel efficiency, potentially costing

drivers substantial amounts of money over time. Drivers of older vehicles without tire pressure alerts should routinely check tire pressure and keep tires adequately inflated. Vehicles that are slow to accelerate from resting positions may not have enough air in

▶SEE PAGE 6



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## Your vehicle has a recall ... now what?

Vehicles are expensive. When motorists drive their vehicles away from a dealership, they hope to travel many miles before they need to come back for maintenance. But manufacturers sometimes issue recalls that can affect drivers of both new and old vehicles.

Recalls are safety precautions taken should a portion of a vehicle or the entire car or truck not operate in the manner it was intended. In many instances, auto manufacturers will directly contact customers who are affected by a recall via a letter, email or both. Individuals also can stay current on recalls by visiting the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website ([www.NHTSA.gov](http://www.NHTSA.gov)).

According to AutoTrader, recalls are becoming more common because of the complexity of modern vehicles. NHTSA flagged nearly 22 million vehicles for safety issues in 2013, and that number is on the rise. Drivers can follow these important steps if they learn of a recall.

- **Don't panic, but don't ignore recalls.** The experts at Kelley Blue Book say recalls often occur due to a problem in the manufacturing process in similar models, and this issue may surface in other vehicles. Recalls do not guarantee vehicles will malfunction or break down. However, consum-



ers are urged to take recalls seriously, adopting a "better safe than sorry" approach when recalls are announced.

- **Follow the instructions.** A recall notice should come with instructions. Instructions often advise drivers to take their vehicles to the dealership where the cars were purchased. Notices may provide in-

formation regarding nearby dealerships for drivers who have moved since buying their cars or trucks.

- **No payment should be necessary.** The cost of repairing the recalled part should not fall on your shoulders. Such repairs are paid by the manufacturer. The financial resource Bankrate.com notes that, "if you had the repair made before the recall was issued (up to a full year), the automaker is legally obligated to reimburse you, as long as you had the work done at one of its franchised dealers." Save all receipts for the work. If work was done by a private mechanic, drivers still may be eligible for reimbursement.

- **Be patient.** Dealerships are not responsible for making repairs until the date indicated on the recall notice, so motorists may need to wait before having their vehicles repaired.

- **Request a loaner vehicle.** In some instances, recalls may take a few days to fix. Although not every dealership may make loaner vehicles available, it's still worth requesting one so you are not inconvenienced.

Anyone having difficulty with a recall can contact the NHTSA online, by phone or by mail. Those who suspect a safety problem also can contact the agency and report their concerns.

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# Things All Drivers Need to Know About Their Tires

(StatePoint) Today's cars are packed with impressive features. Stability control. Ride assist. Ever-more-powerful engines. But no matter what technology makes its way into your car -- it's your tires that connect it to the road, making their construction and maintenance critical for safe, effective driving.

So, what do you need to know? The experts at Cooper Tires are offering these helpful insights.

- **Valve stems are crucial.** Those little caps on the valve help to keep out moisture and dirt, as well as provide an additional seal to the valve core, holding air in the tires and helping maintain tire pressure.

- **Check the manual.** Proper tire pressure is important for safety, performance and fuel economy, and can extend the life of your tires by reducing the chance of uneven wear. But don't check the tire sidewall for this information. That's where the maximum pressure allowed for the tire is listed. The proper inflation pressure can be found by checking the vehicle's owner's manual or the placard found on the driver's side doorjamb, glove box or fuel door.

- **Beware of under-inflation.** Even when tires look properly inflated, they may be under-inflated by as much as 50 percent. Under-inflation can lead to tire failure, and tires that are under-inflated by 8

pounds per square inch (PSI) or more can increase your fuel consumption by 4 percent.

- **Weather matters.** Outside temperature can affect tire pressure more than you might expect. On average, experts say that tire pressure decreases by about 1 PSI for every 10-degree Fahrenheit drop in temperature. The changing seasons are a good reminder to check pressure.

- **"All season" tires have limits.** "All season" tires are meant for year-round moderate weather. Install winter tires for dealing with severe winter weather conditions.

- **Tread check is easy.** Tire tread should be more than 2/32 of an inch deep. Check for this by inserting a penny into the tread with Lincoln's head facing down. If the top of Lincoln's head is covered by tread, there's at least a minimum acceptable amount of tread. If the top of his head is visible at any point around the tire, it's time to replace the tire.

- **Off-road adventures require off-road tires.** Road tires may be able to handle the occasional jaunt down a gravel driveway or dirt road, but when you're heading off-road you'll need something more rugged, such as the Cooper Discoverer STT Pro, which has been designed for off-road use.

- **Tires should be checked regularly.** Every month



and before long road trips, perform this DIY routine: check tire pressure, check tread depth, check the overall condition of the tires for cuts, cracks, splits, punctures, irregular wear and bulges.

- **Know the limits of your tires.** If you're the type of driver more likely to use the gas pedal than the brake, choose tires designed for high-performance, such as the Cooper Zeon RS3-G1, which features great grip and handling.

More tips and information can be found at [coopertire.com](http://coopertire.com).

As cars go high-tech, don't forget that selecting the right tires and keeping them in good shape are two of the most important things you can do to stay safe on the road.

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## DID YOU KNOW?



The Ford Motor Company's Model T was offered in several styles, not unlike how vehicles of today are offered in various models. Among the Model T styles available was a two-seat runabout, which can be considered a precursor to the coupe style popular today, and a seven-seat town car, which might be considered an ancestor of today's SUV, at least with regard to passenger capacity. While prospective Model T drivers had some options when choosing which Model T they wanted to purchase, between 1913 and 1925 the car was produced only in black. The Model T engine was a 4-cylinder engine that generated 20 horsepower. To put that latter figure into perspective, many of today's riding lawn mowers are 20 horsepower, and some commercial lawn riding mowers provide as much as 40 horsepower. While car dealers might not sell too many cars featuring 4-cylinder, 20 horsepower engines today, historical estimates suggest that more than 15 million Model T's were built and sold between 1908 and 1927, the last year the car was produced.

## ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR ROADSIDE EMERGENCY KITS

Motorists never know when problems with their vehicles may force them to pull off the road and onto the shoulder. Whether it's a flat tire, a sputtering engine or an empty gas tank, such circumstances are never welcome.

But such situations need not be so unbearable. Drivers who keep roadside emergency kits in their vehicles may find themselves getting back on the road more quickly the next time an unforeseen problem forces them to pull off the highway. The following are some must-have items drivers should include in their roadside emergency kits.

- Roadside flares
- First-aid kit
- Jumper cables
- Warm blankets
- Flashlight
- Screwdrivers (both flat-head and Phillips)
- Tire-pressure gauge
- Spare tire
- De-icing agent
- Nonperishable snacks
- Extra fluids (i.e., oil, brake fluid, windshield washer)
- Pliers
- Cell phone charger

## LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE

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their tires.

### 4. ADHERE TO MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES.

Drivers may have heard that today's vehicles were built to go longer periods of time between oil changes and tuneups than the vehicles of yesteryear. But drivers should still adhere to manufacturer-recommended maintenance guidelines. Upon buying new vehicles, drivers should read their owners' manuals to determine recommended maintenance intervals, and stick to those intervals for as long as they have their vehicles.

Cognizant of the sizable investments they're making when buying new vehicles, many drivers want to get as many miles out of their vehicles as possible. Simple maintenance and safe driving habits can go a long way toward keeping vehicles on the road for years to come.

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## 5 TIPS TO TAKE PETS ON TRIPS

(Family Features) If your next big excursion is on hold until you can make arrangements for your four-legged friend, a solution may be closer than you think. Pet-friendly accommodations can be easier to find than ever, making it possible to simply take your pet along for the ride.

According to a survey by travel website Orbitz, almost one-third of pet parents say they skipped a trip to stay home with their pet. In fact, 40 percent of survey respondents said they would travel more often if they had convenient, affordable pet sitting or boarding.

If you can't find someone to watch over your furry friend, or you just don't want to, rely on these tips to travel with your pet in tow.

### OPT FOR TRAVEL BY CAR

Although several airlines now offer pet-friendly fares, traveling by car is often less expensive and allows you to keep your pet with you at all times. That puts you in control of necessities

like food and restroom breaks and lets you create a comfy resting place for your pet to snooze while on the road.

### SEEK PET-FRIENDLY DESTINATIONS

According to the survey, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Washington D.C., Chicago and Houston top the United States for locations with the most pet-friendly hotels.

Travel websites make it easy to find hotels that will happily accommodate your pet. For example, Orbitz allows users to book airfare, car rentals, tours and activities, as well as searching for pet-friendly hotels. As an added benefit, members of the rewards program can earn rewards instantly to book hotels for them and their furry friends.

### CONSIDER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Not only is a pet-friendly hotel a necessity, you'll also need to consider local attractions. A dog is likely to appreciate nearby parks and lakes for exercise and fresh air, but there may also be pet-friendly restaurants and



venues in the city you choose to visit.

### PAY ATTENTION TO REVIEWS

Fellow travelers have become one of the most valuable resources in contemporary travel. Their insight often helps set realistic expectations. Reading reviews and learning from others' experiences then adjusting your plans accordingly prior to your trip can help you plan a rewarding vacation for both you and your pet.

### TAKE TIME TO CALL AHEAD

Even pet-friendly facilities have specific guidelines and expectations, so it's a good idea to call ahead to ensure everyone is on the same page. This also allows you to inquire about the availability of special amenities you may require, such as a litter box for a feline traveling companion.

*Plan your next trip and more pet-friendly travel resources at [Orbitz.com](http://Orbitz.com).*

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