

THE WORLD-
Spectator

2024 SPRING CAR CARE





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CHECKING YOUR AIR CONDITIONING IN SPRING JUST MAKES SENSE!

Spring is synonymous with flowers and longer days. It also marks the start of warmer weather. Therefore, ensuring your car's air conditioning (AC) system is in top condition before the summer heat is essential. This can help prevent costly issues and provide the best driving experience.

ANTICIPATE THE HOT WEATHER

Hidden issues can come to light once you start using your air conditioning system in the spring. Inspecting your AC system before summer will ensure any potential problems are identified and fixed before they become major breakdowns. Driving in high temperatures and high humidity without air conditioning isn't fun!

WARNING SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Do you notice any strange smells or noises coming from your air conditioner? Is your AC system not working as well as it used to? Don't ignore these warning signs.

They could point to underlying issues. Fixing these problems in spring will ensure your air conditioning system works optimally during the warmer months.

PRACTICAL PREVENTION TIPS

It's important to clean or replace your air filters regularly. Having your air conditioning system thoroughly checked by a professional is also a good idea. These preventive maintenance tasks can save you a lot of trouble and keep your AC system running smoothly during the hot season.

Make an appointment with a mechanic near you for peace of mind.



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PROPERLY INFLATED AND BALANCED TIRES: BENEFITS GALORE



The importance of your vehicle's tires cannot be underestimated. There are numerous advantages to having well-inflated and perfectly balanced tires. Here are just a few:

Pressure

Check your tire pressure once a month to keep your ride in top shape. Use a reliable pressure gauge and ensure you follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Remember that underinflated tires can cause premature wear, minimize fuel efficiency and reduce your vehicle's stability. On the other hand, overinflated tires can impact grip, leading to longer braking distances and less stable driving.

Balance

You should have your tires balanced whenever you switch them out, have suspension work done or if you experience abnormal vibrations while driving. Balanced tires help distribute the vehicle's weight evenly over all four wheels, minimizing bumps and jolts felt inside the cab.

Alignment

Ensuring your tires are correctly aligned on the rims can significantly prolong the lifespan of your tires, suspension and other components, thereby reducing maintenance expenses in the long run. Additionally, well-balanced tires offer optimal road grip, which leads to a safer and more pleasant driving experience.

For the best results, visit an experienced mechanic in your area. Happy driving!



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4 CAR DEODORIZING TIPS



Keeping your car windows closed during the winter can trap nasty odours in the cabin. As you welcome warmer weather, it's time to deodorize your vehicle. Here are four tips.

1. Vacuum your car from top to bottom, including under the floor mats, in the trunk and between the seats. Use the upholstery attachment to rid your vehicle of smelly dirt and debris in hard-to-reach areas.

2. Vinegar is a natural deodorizer. Make a mixture of equal parts water and white vinegar. Then, spritz the mixture on your car's dashboard, cupholders, seats and carpets. Let the solution sit for 30 minutes, then wipe it away with a clean, damp rag.

3. Baking soda lifts unpleasant scents. For example, sprinkle some baking soda

on your vehicle's carpet or upholstery if you've spilled something on your vehicle's carpet or upholstery. Rub the baking soda into the area and leave it for a few hours. Then, vacuum it up.

4. Charcoal absorbs impurities and nasty smells. That's why it's commonly used in air and water filters. Pick up a charcoal briquette, like the ones used for grilling, at a local store. Leave the briquette in your car for a few days. Charcoal is highly porous and absorbs any nasty odours floating in the air.

Lastly, spray down your car vents with a specialized cleaner. Over time, your car's vents build up dirt and debris that can cause an unpleasant smell. If any bad smells persist, take your car to a cleaning professional.

SPRING TUNE-UP ESSENTIALS



After a long, cold winter, spring is in the air. This means it's time to give your car a little TLC before cruising in the sunshine. Ensuring everything is in tip-top shape before you hit the road can help you avoid costly breakdowns. Here are eight essential spring tune-up tasks.

1. **Battery.** Most batteries last five to seven years. However, cold winters are notoriously hard on batteries. With warm weather on the horizon, ask your mechanic to check the condition of yours.

2. **Windshield wipers.** Ice, snow and freezing temperatures can take a toll on your wiper blades. Therefore, when the weather warms up, it's a good idea to check your blades for signs of wear and replace them if necessary.

3. **Tires.** If you installed winter tires on your vehicle, now's the time to have them swapped out for summer ones. The rubber treading on winter tires wears out faster in warm conditions. If your car is equipped with all-season tires, inspect them for tread wear, cracking or other signs of damage and replace them if necessary.

4. **Hoses and belts.** Harsh winter weather can affect the life of your car's hoses and belts. It's best to have them inspected by a trusted mechanic for cracks, leaks, fraying and stretching to ensure they're ready to go the distance this spring.

5. **Filters.** Ask your

mechanic to look at your vehicle's engine and cabin filters and replace them if needed. A dirty cabin filter can cause your air conditioning system to malfunction, and a dirty engine filter can put undue stress on your engine.

6. **Brakes.** Don't wait for something to go wrong before getting your brakes checked. Have the pads and rotors professionally inspected to keep them in good working condition.

7. **Lights.** When you take your car in for a spring tune-up, have the mechanic check the turn signal bulbs,

brake lights, headlights, marker lights and daytime running lights.

8. **Fluids.** Several fluids must be changed when you go through your spring tune-up routine. For example, the engine oil, power steering fluid, brake and transmission fluids, coolant and windshield washer fluid should all be checked and topped up as necessary.

When you're ready to get a spring tune-up for your vehicle, contact a local mechanic to get the job done right and keep you safe on the road.

When you take your car in for a spring tune-up, have the mechanic check the turn signal bulbs,



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THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION CAN YOU USE YOUR WINTER TIRES IN SUMMER?

Are your winter tires nearing the end of their lifespan? Are you thinking about using them into the summer to maximize your investment? Do you know someone who's already done this and swears there's no risk? Find out why it's important not to do this.

Adapting to driving conditions

Winter tires are designed to provide optimum grip on cold, slippery and snowy surfaces. They're made of special rubber compounds that can withstand these conditions.

Using them in summer can compromise their performance, resulting



in longer braking distances and unstable handling.

Impact fuel consumption

Winter tires have a

higher rolling resistance than summer tires. Using them when it's

hot outside can increase fuel consumption because the engine must

work harder to overcome this phenomenon. The environmental and financial repercussions are very real!

Risk of overheating

Winter tires can overheat in summer, particularly on long drives at high speeds. This can lead to structural damage that can compromise their integrity and increase the risk of bursting.

Finally, keeping your winter tires on in summer increases hydroplaning risk. So, although this idea may seem economical, the dangers associated with keeping your winter tires on in summer far outweigh any benefits.

IT'S TIME TO WASH YOUR CAR!

With the arrival of spring, it's time to give your car the care it needs after enduring the harsh winter weather. Here are a few tips.

Washing the outside

It's important to give your car a comprehensive exterior wash. The accumulation of salt, sand, mud and de-icing chemicals can significantly damage your car's bodywork and metal components. Use products specifically formulated for vehicles, and remember to clean less visible areas, like inside the wheel wells.

Cleaning the inside

When cleaning the interior of your vehicle, start by vacuuming every nook and cranny. Then, use cleaning

products designed for each surface, such as plastic and fabric, to remove winter residue and eliminate unpleasant smells.

Washing your car in spring is a preventative measure that will help extend the life of your vehicle and maintain its resale value. By taking the time to perform this routine task, you'll keep your car looking great and in excellent condition.

Visit your local automotive retailer for expert advice and to find the right cleaning products for your vehicle.



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