

Summer Vehicle Maintenance Tips

- **Trip Smart.** Spend a few minutes performing routine maintenance before you hit the road with your family and loved ones this summer. For a total budget-savvy summer travel solution reference AutoZone's Trip Smart 2012 Travel Guide. Download a free copy of the travel guide at <http://www.multivu.com/players/English/55025-autozone-protect-your-investment/>.
- **Perform routine scheduled [maintenance checks](#).** Motorists should check their owner's manual for a schedule of recommended maintenance intervals from the vehicle manufacturer. If the owner's manual has been lost, many websites, such as the National Car Care Council's web site <http://www.carcare.org/>, offer a recommended maintenance schedule for vehicles.
- **Be proactive.** Don't wait for a breakdown to check under the hood. Replacing engine components at required intervals can help prevent an unexpected breakdown.
- **Be prepared.** Visit an automotive retailer such as [AutoZone](#) to purchase a roadside emergency kit. Also keep items such as a tire pressure gauge, spare serpentine belt and jumper cables handy.
- **Check and replace vital vehicle components at recommended intervals.** Regular maintenance can prevent costly damage, [improve fuel efficiency](#) and prevent an unwanted breakdown.
- **Switch to a synthetic motor oil.** Consider a quality, synthetic motor oil like [Mobil 1 Advanced Fuel Economy](#) to help improve fuel efficiency and engine performance.
- **Checking tire pressure is very important as correct pressure helps maximize fuel economy.**
- **Check and maintain all fluid levels.** Be sure your antifreeze is up to the task for hot summer temperatures. Replace it if needed according to recommended service intervals.
- **Test the battery if four years or older.** Testing the battery during the summer months can help to avoid being stranded during the hottest time of the year.
- **Replace spark plugs as recommended.** Spark plugs can affect fuel efficiency, emissions and economy. Change spark plugs at the proper interval.
- **Replace oxygen sensors as recommended.** Replacing oxygen sensors at the recommended time can significantly improve gas mileage. Check and replace one- and two-wire sensors

every 30,000-50,000 miles and every 60,000-100,000 miles for “heated” type oxygen sensors.

- **Keep the air filter clean.** Replacing a clogged air filter can lead to increased performance and acceleration. Air filters should be checked at every oil change.

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