

**TIMES NEWS**  
— MEDIA GROUP —

# Spring CAR CARE 2025



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT OF THE

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# Auto interior maintenance and cleaning tips

A number of factors are involved in keeping a vehicle functioning and looking good. Ensuring a vehicle interior is clean and tidy is easily overlooked, but such efforts can improve the driving experience.

Drivers who want their cars and trucks to look their best should not forget their vehicle interiors. Drivers unsure where to start can spruce up their vehicle interiors in the following ways.

• **Remove any trash.** Wrappers, receipts, empty water bottles, and other items can quickly pile up inside a car, especially for drivers who have young children. Routinely go through the vehicle to gather and remove debris.

• **Vacuum the interior.** Start off with a can of compressed air and blow out dust and any other dirt that has accumulated in tight crevices. Then use a high-powered vacuum to conduct a thorough cleaning.

Pay attention to the seams of car seats, door handles, armrests, floor mats (and under them), underneath child safety seats, and the trunk or cargo area. If you don't have a vacuum with a lot of suction, utilize one at a do-it-yourself car wash location.

• **Scrub floor mats.** Drivers with rubber mats can remove them and make a mild cleaning solution of a few drops of dish soap and warm water. Use a soft-bristled brush to clean the mats. Upholstered mats can be shampooed using a carpet cleaner. Then rinse and hang to dry. All mats should be completely dry before being returned to the vehicle.

• **Clean the upholstery.** Seats can get dirty and dingy over time. For cloth vehicle seats, use a proper spray or foam upholstery cleaner. All-purpose cleaner can work on vinyl seats, but leather seats require a special leather soap and conditioner. Avoid products with silicone,



which can stain your clothes and may make interior surfaces too slippery.

• **Address glass surfaces.** Turn your attention to the windshield, windows and mirrors. You can use a store-bought glass cleaner on these surfaces and a lint-free cloth. Avoid products containing ammonia, which may damage tinting on windows.

• **Consider lingering odors.** If the interior of the car has an odor, the cabin air fil-

ter may need to be changed, or there may be water entering the vehicle somewhere and creating a musty smell. Seek out any problems and address. A car air freshener can further improve the interior smell.

A thorough deep cleaning can be done at least once a month to keep a vehicle's interior fresh and clean. However, keeping up with interior cleaning and maintenance by doing small jobs regularly will reduce the need for routine deep cleaning.

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# Signs it is time to replace brakes

Each component of a vehicle performs an important function that ensures the car runs safely and soundly. A working brake system is vital to vehicle safety, so any issues affecting the brakes merit attention. Fortunately, there are various warning signs that indicate to vehicle owners it is time to replace brakes.

• **Grinding sound:** Sun Auto Service says a deep grinding metal sound indicates that brakes are wearing down. Brake pads typically come equipped with tiny metal ridges on the bottom of the pads to alert the driver that the pads have worn down. Continuing to drive like this will put metal on metal, which can damage the rotors.

• **Squealing sound:** Some brake pads have built-in wear indicators. A driver may notice a squealing, screeching or whining noise when the brakes are engaged, says Bridgestone. Grinding or squealing often indicates that the brakes need to be replaced.

• **Pulling to one side:** When braking, drivers might notice the car pulling over to one side. This indicates brake pads are unevenly worn out, causing the car to pull to one side when braking.

• **Visible wear and tear:** A visual inspection of the brakes can give drivers an idea of their condition. If the pads are less than a quarter-inch thick, it is time to have them inspected or replaced.



• **Brake pedal vibration:** When brakes are working properly, the vehicle will smoothly slow to a stop. If the brakes are worn out or if the rotors are damaged, the brake pedal can vibrate and the car may even buck as it comes to a stop. This means the brakes and possibly the rotors will need to be changed.

• **Failure to stop:** Of

course, a clear indication that it could be time to replace the brakes is if the car does not respond promptly to braking when the brake pedal is pressed. A soft brake pedal or longer stop times might mean brake fluid is low or may indicate the need for a brake replacement.

Various signs may indicate it is time to replace a vehicle's brakes.

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# INTERIOR EXTERIOR

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# Which vehicle is right for me?



Purchasing a new vehicle can be exciting. Whether a car or truck is a brand new model or pre-owned and simply new to you, it can be fun to explore the different features available in various vehicles.

Choosing a vehicle takes some time and consideration. After all, there is no one-size-fits-all answer to the question, "Which car should I buy?" Rather, it depends on needs, desired features, budgets, and even preferences in brand. Changes to one's family dynamic or even where a person lives also can affect the type of vehicle they choose to drive.

## Budget

The adage, "champagne taste; beer budget," applies to many things in life. Wishful thinking may have a consumer considering a luxury vehicle, but when it comes time to crunch the numbers, a different option may be more practical. Of course, buying a pre-owned vehicle often gives customers a bit more wiggle room with price. A vehicle that is two or three years old will come with a much lower price tag than a brand new one that just rolled onto the dealership lot.

## Needs

It is important to put needs before wants when buying a car. Someone may

want a sports car, but when they think about the two child seats that need to fit in the back, a two-door coupe seems impractical. It's important for drivers to consider just what the vehicle will be required to do. If shepherding children to sports practice is a goal, then a larger vehicle with cargo space and room for multiple passengers is necessary. If one is a business professional who drives clients around, then something more upscale and comfortable will move to the top of the list. People who drive long distances likely will want a vehicle that gets good gas mileage.

## Comfort

Comfort is a consideration

for drivers looking at vehicles. Look at the specifications for the vehicle, paying special attention to the interior dimensions. A taller individual may need more head and leg room. Also, comfort applies to ease of maneuvering the vehicle. Although a big SUV or pickup truck may help people transport a lot of stuff, some may find the large footprint of such vehicles is not so easy to handle, particularly if much of the driving occurs in an urban environment.

## Features

Drivers should identify the features that are important to them. Features such as lane departure warnings or blind-spot indicators can be helpful. Back-up cameras can be an asset, but may not be standard on all vehicles. Customers should make a list of everything they desire, like heated seats or a sunroof, and then narrow down options according to budget.

These are some considerations when shopping for a new vehicle. It behooves drivers to take their time, especially if they intend to drive this car or truck for years to come.

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# Common car noises and what they might be indicating

Although there are many drivers who understand what goes on under the hood of a vehicle and the inner workings of car mechanics, there are plenty of others who might not know a spark plug from a dipstick. For the latter group, random noises when driving can be a cause for immediate alarm.

Certain noises can be innocuous and easily fixed, while others may be indicative of something more complex. Pinpointing where a noise is coming from can help vehicle owners identify the problem. Here's a list of some common sounds and what the causes might be, courtesy of Firestone, Geico and Nationwide.

## High-pitched squealing

Screeching or squealing coming from the tires when stepping on the brakes likely means that brake pads are wearing down and the indicator is rubbing against the rotor. Although this is not an emergency situation, it does mean that brakes will need to be replaced sooner than later.

## Rattling in the wheel

If you hear rattling inside of a wheel at low speeds which stops as you drive faster, it could mean there

is a loose lug nut inside of the hub cap. That wheel wasn't tightened properly the last time it was removed and replaced. Bring the car to a mechanic as soon as possible.

## Clicking

If you try to start the car and only hear a clicking sound instead of the car turning over, a dead battery is likely the cause. Such a noise also may indicate corroded battery terminals that are preventing the current from flowing. Terminals need to be cleaned. The battery should be checked and jumped, if necessary. If a battery is not holding a charge, a new one is needed.

## Squeaky or scraping windshield wipers

Squeaking and scraping means the windshield wipers are wearing down or the windshield is dirty. Clean the windshield and inspect the wiper blades to make sure they are in working order. A bad wiper and dirty windshield can reduce visibility and make driving dangerous.

## Clunking sounds

Clunking sounds may indicate a few different issues. A clunking sound might indicate worn out shock absorbers, which



absorb vibrations from the wheels. Damaged struts also can cause clunking. Worn out leaf spring shackles that help in off-roading conditions also can cause clunking when they bend or break.

## Humming, whining or whirring

These strange noises might have different origins. Check if the differential needs to be lubricated. A wheel bearing also could be worn out and produce a noise. In more severe cases, the transmission could be failing. The best course of action is to get a professional opinion from a mechanic.

## Flapping noise

A broken belt typically

is the culprit when a vehicle makes a flapping or slapping noise. Something also may be interfering with the fan. Driving with a broken belt may cause severe engine damage, so it's important to address the issue.

## Squealing under the hood

Squealing can indicate worn or loose accessory belts. In newer cars it might be the serpentine belt. Belts are relatively inexpensive and easy fixes.

These are some of the sounds that vehicles can make when something is awry. Figuring out the issue can prevent further damage.



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# Why Most Americans Prefer an SUV

(BPT)-SUVs are regaining a surge in popularity, with manufacturers focused on safety and advanced technology. SUVs are now the preferred choice for families across the U.S. and are a top option for many drivers.

The space and versatility of SUVs provide significant advantages for active families, fueling the growth of the SUV market. Consumers are looking for vehicles that can easily support outdoor activities like camping, fishing, and biking, making SUVs a perfect choice.

Traditionally, SUVs were criticized for poor gas mileage; however,



advancements in engine technology have addressed this concern for many.

In terms of market growth, Kia's Telluride, Sorento, and Sportage models are making notable contributions. In 2024, sales of these SUVs were 76% of Kia's overall annual sales, reflecting

an 8% increase from the previous year. The Telluride and Sportage have both set new annual sales records, with the Sportage seeing a 15% increase and the Telluride a 4% increase.

The Telluride continues to lead its segment with a blend of new technology, advanced

driver assistance features and comfort. Meanwhile, the Sorento, available in both front-wheel drive and all-wheel drive configurations, is praised for its smooth and efficient performance. As Kia's longest-running nameplate, the 2026 Sportage is tailored for today's adventurous and eco-conscious consumers.



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Whether you have a car, truck or motor home, you can depend on the mechanics who take pride in and stand behind their work! They realize your vehicle is very important to you and will do what they can to make sure it's back on the road in a timely manner. As Junior used to say, "If the light is on, you need help, stop in and we'll help. We are your one-stop repair shop."

Leaser's also became a NAPA Auto Care Center and they stock batteries, Cooper tires and other brands too, and install Jasper engines and transmissions. They can tackle most major and minor repairs on foreign or domestic vehicles. State inspections, computer diagnostics, AC service, exhaust, brakes & suspension work, computerized alignments, complete transmission services, radiator and injection flushes, some rust repairs and welding work are things that Leaser's Garage can do for you.

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# Daily steps to make a vehicle last longer

Modern cars have longer life expectancies than their predecessors. Consumer Reports indicates it's not unheard of for modern vehicles to endure for 200,000 miles or more. For many, that equates to 12 to 15 years of usage.

Even though many vehicles are built to have increased longevity, it often is up to the driver to do his or her part to ensure cars and trucks can last for years and years. Here are some daily steps vehicle owners can take to achieve longer life spans for their cars or trucks.

• **Take it slow and steady.** Athletes do not hit the ground running at top speed, and neither should a vehicle. Let the car gradually acclimate to being on the move each day after sitting overnight. Gently accelerate and afford the engine time to warm up and all of the components to get the fluids they require before you jump on the highway or require the vehicle to go all out. Most automotive experts warn against idling a car in the driveway to warm it up, but starting out at a slow and steady pace is key.

• **Don't be extreme.** Jerky turns, gunning the gas and braking hard lead to unnecessary wear and tear on a vehicle. By smoothing out your driving, you'll put less stress on mechanical components and help prevent them from wearing out prematurely.

• **Clean it out daily.** Accumulated debris often builds up inside a vehicle that is used all of the time. Taking a few minutes to clear out trash or to wipe down the interior each day will prolong the interior components, not to mention make it easier

to do a more thorough detailing when the time comes.

• **Find a trusty fuel station.** Bad gas can wreak havoc on a vehicle. Find a station that you trust, particularly one that takes care of their pumps and regularly changes their pump filters. It's worth it to spend a little more overall for good gas.

• **Read your oil level.** Oil is essential to maintain a properly operating engine and vehicle. AARP suggests routine reading of a car's oil level so that you can add lubricant as necessary. While this might not be a daily task, doing it regularly enough means you will keep on top of this important step.

• **Park in the shade or a garage.** The sun may feel good on a warm day, but the UV rays from the sun can take their toll on a vehicle's paint. Whenever possible, park out of direct sunlight so that the paint will not fade and the interior upholstery will not bleach. Those who need to park their vehicles for an extended period of time should choose a clean, dry, well-ventilated location, advises Wawanesa Insurance.

• **Be attentive.** Listen to the sounds your vehicle is making and give it a visual inspection each time you get in or out of the car. The sooner you catch something that is out of the ordinary, the easier it becomes to fix problems before they become costly and damaging.

Vehicle owners can take steps each day to improve the longevity of their cars and trucks.



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# 6 benefits of servicing a vehicle at the dealership

Routine maintenance is required to ensure the safety and performance of any vehicle. Although vehicle owners have different options when it comes to servicing their cars and trucks, including doing it themselves or visiting an independent auto repair center, there are various benefits to using a dealership for servicing needs.

According to a study by Kelley Blue Book, 35 percent of all cars were serviced at a dealership in 2021. By 2023, that figure had dropped to 30 percent. Service chains, like tire service centers and quick lube brands, are gaining ground in the automotive servicing market. Here are six reasons why consumers may want to think about returning to the dealership to maintain their vehicles.

See **BENEFITS** on Page 9



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## 1. Cost

KBB says that owners are not saving much by shifting their business to service centers. In 2023, the average dealership service visit cost \$258, while a visit to a non-dealer service center was \$249 on average. Customers may be able to negotiate with dealerships where they purchased the car for lower prices or coupon incentives, as dealerships typically like to build relationships with customers to ensure repeat business.

## 2. Original equipment manufacturer parts

A big advantage to going to the dealership for service is original equipment manufacturer parts, known as OEM parts and

accessories. OEM means the components used in the service or repair will be the same as those used by the manufacturer in their own workshops, guaranteeing both quality and compatibility, according to DCH Honda. This can be especially important for electrical components.

## 3. Certified technicians

Modern vehicles are complex and unique between make and model. Visiting a dealership for service means you'll be getting a service technician who has specific knowledge about the vehicles that dealership sells. Technicians at dealerships have to be manufacturer-certified, meaning they will have the most up-to-date knowledge and access to cutting-edge equipment.

## 4. Warranty savings

More often than not, new vehicles come with manufacturer warranties. Certain service may be covered by the manufacturer or dealership at no cost to the vehicle owner. Plus, the dealership can easily look up and apply the warranty pricing if applicable. Also, the service may need to be performed at a dealership by a certified technician for a warranty to continue to be valid.

## 5. Accessible records

If and when the time comes time to sell a vehicle, having a handy log of all servicing can be advantageous. This is easier to come by if all of the visits took place at a dealership. They can simply pull up a record of the

vehicle and provide it to the owner; otherwise, one may scramble to compile the vehicle history from various service centers.

## 6. Loaner vehicle

Oftentimes dealerships will provide courtesy cars to customers while service is taking place. This means that customers will not be inconvenienced if repairs take a day or more, and will not have to spend out-of-pocket to get a rental car.

Even if customers know and trust an independent mechanic, or feel confident in their own repair skills, there are times when going to a dealership for servicing may be a better idea.

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# How to reduce your risk of being in an auto accident

Driving a car or truck is part of daily life for most people. Commutes to work or school, leisure trips or time spent behind the wheel as part of a profession compel people to drive each and every day. Although most trips to the office or the store are uneventful, the risk that something may go awry is present any time a person gets behind the wheel, and drivers need to plan accordingly.

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis says there were approximately 16,200 automotive accidents per day in the United States in 2022, the most recent year for data. This number has steadily risen over the last decade and may be attributable to a number of factors, including increased vehicle usage. Diamond and Diamond Lawyers in Canada says approximately four Canadians die and 175 are injured in impairment-related crashes every day. Though accidents occur every day, drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being involved in one.

## Stick to the speed limit

Speed limits are posted on roadways for a reason. Exceeding speed limits significantly increases the risk of getting into an accident, and many accidents are directly related to speeding. Slowing down



can make roadways safer.

## Eliminate distractions

Smartphones, GPS devices, passengers, pets in the car, or anything that causes a person to take his or her eyes off of the road, even for mere seconds, can increase the risk of being in an auto accident. Accident Care and Treatment Center, Inc. says distracted driving is the primary cause of car accidents each year. Smartphones are a modern distraction, and keeping phones turned off and out of reach can keep drivers safer.

## Change your perception

It is important to think of a car or truck as what it truly is: 3,000 pounds or more of fast-moving metal that can cause a lot of damage. Those who do not drive responsibly, or feel they are invincible behind the wheel, could be on a

crash course for an auto accident. Treating a vehicle with respect is a must.

## Leave a space cushion

Tailgating and aggressive driving maneuvers that do not leave an adequate distance between vehicles can compound the problem of accidents. Travelers insurance company urges drivers to stay at least three seconds behind the vehicle ahead of them, and longer for those driving heavier vehicles. The timing also should be extended when weather conditions are bad. A significant cushion enables drivers to stop safely or maneuver around to avoid an accident.

## Improve visibility

A cracked or dirty windshield or dim headlights can diminish visibility. Being able to see and be seen when on the road is a major contributor to accident risk reduction.

## Brush up on skills

Newly minted licensed drivers and older drivers may need a driving skills refresher course. Oftentimes learning how to avoid accidents comes down to experience and defensive driving techniques. Those who feel they may need a little extra practice can enroll in a course. An additional upside is that such a course also can help reduce insurance premiums.

## Know your limitations

Geico notes the risk of a fatal crash is three times higher at night than in the day for every mile driven. Although it may not be possible to avoid nighttime driving entirely, limiting it, particularly for those who have challenges seeing at night or in dim conditions, can help reduce accident risk. The same can be said for staying off of roads in inclement weather.

## Don't drive impaired

Driving while under the influence of drugs (both illegal and prescription), alcohol and/or other substances greatly increases accident risk.

Various strategies can help drivers reduce their risk of being involved in auto accidents.



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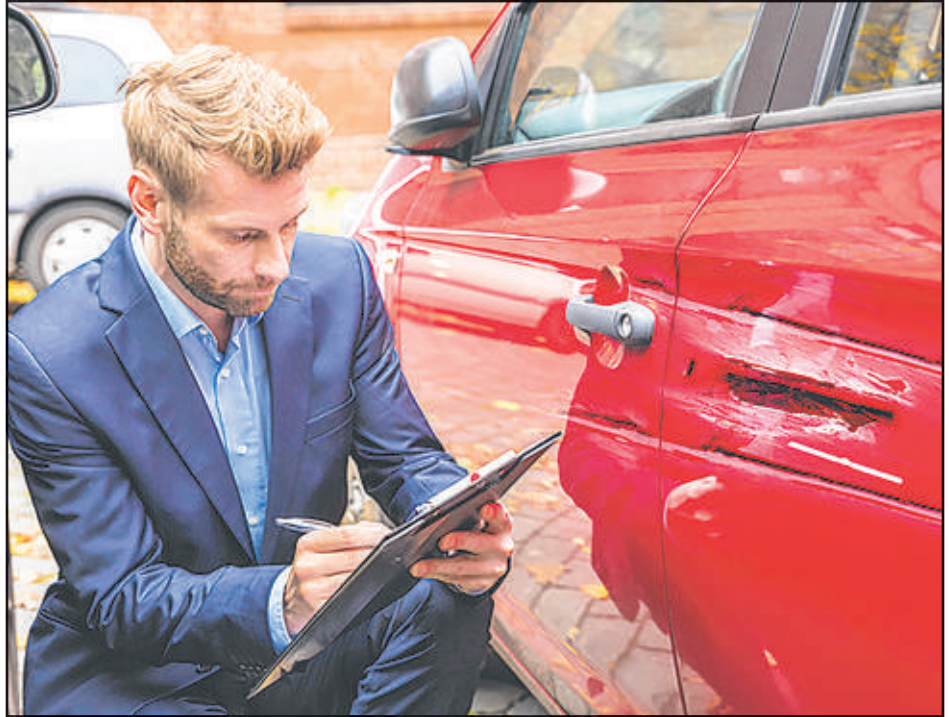
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# A consumer's guide to auto insurance

Drivers need to be in possession of certain documentation in order to own and operate a motor vehicle legally. Naturally a driver's licence is necessary, as is a vehicle registration. However, drivers also need proof of automotive insurance to be able to operate their cars and trucks. Auto insurance helps protect a person's finances by covering the cost of bills resulting from accidents or other incidents involving vehicles. Navigating the basics of auto insurance can be a little tricky, but consumers can use this guide to gain a greater understanding of their policies and coverage.



## What is automotive insurance?

Investopedia defines automotive insurance as a policy between a consumer and an insurance company that says the person will make payments, and in return, the insurance company agrees to cover the costs of medical bills, vehicle repairs and other property damage. Some types of automotive insurance are required by law, while others are optional.

### Liability coverage

Most states and provinces require drivers to have liability insurance. This is the most basic coverage to legally drive a car. The Insurance Information Institute says liability insurance pays the other driver's medical, car repair and additional costs when the policyholder is at fault in an auto accident. Bodily injury liability, which applies to injuries that the

policyholder and family members listed on the policy cause to someone else, is included in liability insurance. Policyholders can purchase more than the minimum required. Property damage liability pays for damage a driver may cause to someone else's property, such as vehicles, lamp posts, fences, buildings, or structures.

### Collision coverage

Collision coverage pays for damage from a collision with another car, an object or a pothole, or from flipping over, says the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

### Comprehensive coverage

This coverage will reimburse a policyholder for damage to the vehicle that's not caused by a collision. This can include weather, fire, flooding, and hitting an animal.

### Personal injury protection (PIP)

The III indicates this coverage pays for the treatment of injuries to the driver and passengers. PIP can cover medical payments, lost wages, and the cost of replacing services normally performed by the person who was injured in the auto accident. PIP may cover funeral costs in some cases.

### Uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage

This coverage offers protection to policyholders who get in an accident with a driver who doesn't have insurance or has insufficient coverage to fully cover the costs of the accident, says Investopedia.

### Premiums and deductibles

A premium is the total amount paid for the poli-

cy. It is determined by the coverages, policy holder's age and driving history, and a number of other factors.

Insurance policies typically have deductibles associated with them. This is the amount a policyholder has to pay out of pocket before the insurance kicks in and pays out. A higher deductible often means a lower premium.

Insurance policy terms typically are six months in length and will auto-renew at the end of the term. Motorists can keep an eye out for policy changes and costs at this time and decide if they want to stick with their insurance company or shop around.

Automotive insurance is needed to operate a vehicle, but costs will vary depending on the coverage.



# How to avoid road rage

Summer driving often can be frustrating, especially when you're dealing with heavy traffic and unexpected delays. Here are a few effective strategies to help you maintain your composure behind the wheel.

## PLAN AHEAD

Rushing only increases stress. Make sure to allow extra time for your drive and prepare for potential delays. Use a navigation app to check traffic conditions so you can avoid lastminute frustrations.

## PRACTISE DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Instead of reacting emotionally to aggressive drivers, focus on safe and responsible driving. Maintain a safe following distance, use your turn signals and follow all traffic laws. If another driver displays aggression, let them pass you and move on.

## STAY IN CONTROL OF YOUR EMOTIONS

If you feel yourself getting irritated, take a deep breath and tell yourself that anger won't improve the situation. Remember that other drivers aren't perfect or out to get you. Listening to calming music, engaging podcasts or audiobooks can help you stay in a positive mood.

## AVOID CONFRONTATION

Never make rude gestures or yell at another driver, and resist the urge to "teach them a lesson." Escalating the situation can lead to dangerous



outcomes. If someone else is aggressive, ignore them and avoid making eye contact.

## TAKE A BREAK

If you start to feel overwhelmed, pull over safely and take a short break. Stretch, drink some water r step out of your car for a moment to reset. Taking a few minutes for yourself can significantly improve your mood and make the remainder of our drive more enjoyable. This summer, be patient and prioritize safety for a pleasant and stress-free driving experience.

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# Does your car need a new starter motor?

Your car's starter motor plays a central role in getting you moving. When it malfunctions, it can prevent your vehicle from starting, leaving you stranded. Be alert for these warning signs, as they could mean your starter motor is failing.

- **You notice a grinding noise.** This happens if the starter gear isn't aligning properly with the flywheel. This is usually a sign of worn-out or damaged starter gear teeth.

- **You hear a clicking sound**



- **when you turn the key.** This issue often signals a faulty starter solenoid. This makes it hard for the starter motor to receive or utilize power effectively.

- **Your car starts only some of the time.** If your vehicle starts up normal-

ly one day but struggles the next, a loose or corroded wiring connection within the starter system could be the issue.

- **Your interior lights dim when you're starting the car.** A failing starter can cause electrical problems. If your

interior lights dim when you attempt to start the engine, it could indicate a starter motor issue.

- **You see or smell smoke.** Do you notice smoke coming from the engine bay during starting attempts? This may result from overheating due to excessive power draw or a short circuit in the starter motor. If you experience any of these symptoms, take your car to a qualified automotive technician. Early diagnosis and repair can prevent further damage.

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Rob Wolfe, owner of **Rob's Auto Center**, truly understands what it means to be a family owned and operated business. Rob and his father, Carter Wolfe, who is a retired Bethlehem Steel worker and both are Liberty H.S. alumni. Father-in-law Tom Hawk, is a retired UPS mechanic, Marine, Northampton alumni and Commander of the Northampton American Legion. Rich Brown, lead technician, and a Northampton Alumni. Barry Loch is an assistant technician, Airforce veteran, retired Northampton Area School District employee, and Northampton alumni.

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# Common car component functions

It's been said it takes a village to raise a child. And when it comes to cars and trucks, scores of components are required to ensure a vehicle is operational. Various parts must work in concert to power a car or truck. Drivers may not fully understand the roles of the key components under the hood and elsewhere. The following are some of the parts and features involved in vehicle operation.

- **Engine:** The engine is the most important component in a gas-powered vehicle. Without it, the vehicle would not move. Most modern vehicles are powered by an internal combustion engine, which creates energy by igniting a mixture of fuel and air. Increasingly, however, customers are opting for electric motors that store energy in rechargeable batteries.

- **Cooling system:** This component keeps the engine at a temperature that is optimal to prevent overheating. It consists of a radiator that transfers heat from the hot engine coolant to the atmosphere; a water pump that forces coolant to circulate; and a thermostat to regulate the engine's operating temperature.

- **Transmission:** The transmission is a complex system of gear sets, hydraulic torque converters, and clutches and bands. Automatic transmissions work automatically to shift to accelerate and decelerate as needed for a smooth driving experience. Drivers control a manual transmission. AutoZone notes there's also a continuously variable transmission that continuously adjusts the transmission ratio to optimize fuel efficiency.

- **Battery and alternator:** The battery stores energy so it can be released as electricity to run the vehicle's electrical components. The alternator is responsible for generating electricity for the vehicle, but also to recharge the battery.

- **Catalytic converter:** This part is a component of the exhaust system. It is an emissions control device that will transform dangerous exhaust gases into water, carbon dioxide and nitrogen.

- **Brakes:** The brakes on a vehicle slow it down and enable it to come to a stop. Cars will have disc or drum brake systems. Disc brakes include calipers, rotors and pads. The calipers are housings for the



brake pads and are responsible for converting hydraulic pressure when the driver presses the brake pedal into mechanical force. The brake pads create friction against the brake rotor (a spinning disc), generating the force needed to stop the car.

- **Shock absorbers:** A car ride would be very rough and bumpy without a suspension system. Shock absorbers are springs that smooth out the ride by ensuring the tires remain in contact with the road surface. Worn shocks can cause vibrations and uneven tire wear.

- **Starter and solenoid:** The starter is responsible for turning the engine's crankshaft. When the ignition is engaged, it moves a small gear called a pinion. Then the starter motor spins, cranking the engine to initiate the combustion process. The solenoid is an electro-mechanical switch between the battery and the starter that receives an electrical signal when the vehicle ignition is engaged. The solenoid powers the starter, which helps to crank the engine.

- **Steering system:** The steering components transfer input from the steering wheel to the front wheels. Modern cars have power steering, which reduces the amount of effort needed to turn the steering wheel. The steering wheel rotates the steering column, which rotates the pinion gear that connects to a rack that extends the width of the vehicle. As the pinion rotates, it pushes the rack, which then moves the tie rods and steering knuckles on the front tires.

Vehicles have hundreds of parts that work together to start and move the car so that people can effortlessly get from point A to point B.



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Jeff has been fixing transmissions since 1976 and opened a Cottman Transmission back in 1984. He began with his father, Richard, and has since moved his location to 950 Chestnut St. in Emmaus. For quality service and a great experience, the Cottman Man is still the Man for everything auto repair related. While specializing in transmission rebuilds, the crew at Cottman can and will fix anything related to your vehicle....everything from an oil change to batteries, brakes, belts, hoses, alignment, exhaust systems and more.

When you visit Cottman of Emmaus, you can expect to be treated with the utmost respect. You will be greeted by their friendly staff, the technicians will diagnose your vehicle and answer any questions you may have.

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When it comes to expert service, Jeff and his technicians have your back. Most of the technicians have over 30 years of experience in transmissions and total automotive car care. They will do all they can to get you back into your car as soon

as possible. So the next time you need automotive service, think Cottman of Emmaus.

And with today's rising gas prices, here are a few tips for getting optimal gas mileage:

- Ensure your belts, hoses, tire pressure and fluids are checked each time your have your oil changed.
- Schedule regular appointments for brake check-ups.
- Don't be afraid to ask your technician questions. They should be happy to help.
- Always get a written quote on any auto repairs needed.

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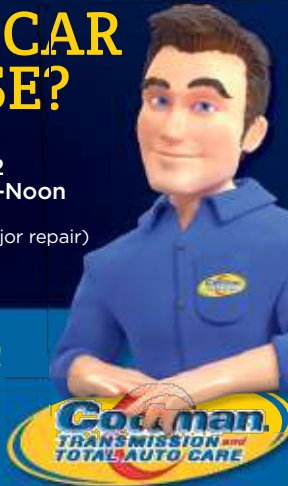
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