

TOP 10 Car Care Do's that Don't Get Done - Why Skimping on Car Care Today Will Be Costly Tomorrow!



Your car needs an oil change or a tire rotation. It's one more chore on your never-ending "to do" list, and sometimes it just falls through the cracks. Apparently you are not alone. Many maintenance issues, if gone unchecked, can lead to real problems for vehicle owners.

Described below are 10 examples why following your car's recommended maintenance schedule is a way to ensure your vehicle operates more safely, uses fuel more efficiently, lasts longer and retains its value.

1 Tire Pressure:

WHY?	WHEN?
Over or under-inflated tires can decrease your fuel economy and cause premature wear.	Check the tire pressure (including the spare) at least once a month and always follow the recommendations in your owner's manual.

2 Engine Air Filter:

WHY?	WHEN?
A dirty or clogged air filter restricts airflow and will reduce engine performance and fuel economy.	Check the air filter every 6 months or 7,500 kms. Typically your repair shop should inspect the filter at each oil change.

3 Battery Cables/ Clamps/Terminals:

WHY?	WHEN?
Power from the battery flows to the rest of your vehicle through cables, clamps and terminals. If these become loose or corroded, your car won't have enough power to start.	The battery and its related parts should be inspected at every oil change to ensure there are no problems.

4 Windshield Washer Fluid:

WHY?	WHEN?
Debris on your windshield can compromise your vision if it cannot be removed by your windshield wipers.	Check your washer fluid regularly and more often if you use your washers frequently.

5 Engine Oil:

WHY?	WHEN?
Oil is the lifeblood of your engine and without enough of it, your engine will wear rapidly and could even seize.	Change your engine's oil and oil filter at the specified intervals as recommended in your vehicle's owners manual.

6 Windshield Wiper Blades:

WHY?	WHEN?
Often overlooked until you find yourself in a pounding rainstorm, premium windshield wiper blades can ensure your vision is not obscured.	Check your wiper blades at each oil change or whenever they fail to clean the glass with one swipe. Streaking and chattering are common clues that replacement is needed.

7 Antifreeze/Coolant Protection:

WHY?	WHEN?
Primary task of an engine coolant is to transfer heat from the engine to the radiator where it is removed by the passing airflow	Check the coolant level at every oil change and have the system flushed and refilled at the interval specified in your vehicle's owner's manual. Also inspect the coolant hoses.

8 Tire Tread:

WHY?	WHEN?
The four points where the rubber meets the road are the only things that stand between you and an accident. In wet and snowy road conditions, having the proper tires with sufficient tread depth and air pressure is crucial.	Check the tread depth of your car's tires whenever they appear low. Uneven or excessive wear may indicate the need for suspension repair, wheel alignment or wheel balance. This will extend the life of your tires.

9 Drive Belt Tensioner:

WHY?	WHEN?
Drive Belts that are too loose or too tight can reduce efficiency and cause premature failure.	Drive Belt condition and tension should be checked at every oil change. To prevent being stranded have your car's belts replaced every four years or 100,000 km.

10 Brake Fluid:

WHY?	WHEN?
An adequate supply of clean brake fluid is absolutely essential for safe vehicle operation. An inadequate supply can lead to brake failure.	Have your brake fluid inspected at every oil change. Most vehicle manufacturers recommend replacing your brake fluid - check your owner's manual for specific recommendations.