



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University

Pathways to Success

A Basic Living Skills Curriculum

Taking Care of a Car

Sissy Osteen, Ph.D., CFP®
sissy.osteen@okstate.edu

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Taking Care of a Car

Today you will learn: How to care for a car.

Taking Care of a Car

Owning a car costs a lot of money. Some people try to cut car costs by not making repairs.

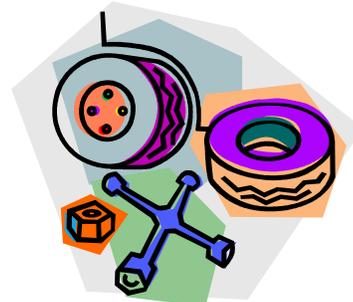


All cars must be taken care of to keep them running properly and safely. You must yield to this check list of car repairs.



- * Check fluids in the battery, radiator, brakes, power steering, engine and automatic transmission.
- * Have engine tune-ups as needed.
- * Check the oil. Add extra oil as needed. Change the oil every 5,000 miles.

- * Keep the proper air pressure in the tires.
- * Rotate tires every 5,000 miles to help them last longer. Replace worn tires. Shop for free rotating service.



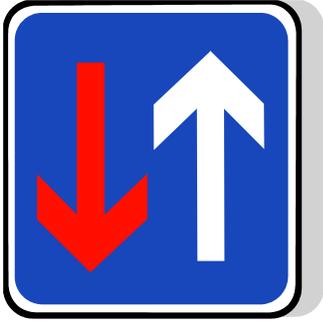
- * Check lights to be sure they are working properly.
- * Replace windshield wiper blades as needed.
- * Read your owner's manual.

Keep your car clean to help it last longer. Dirt on a car will hurt the finish. In some areas, salt or chemicals are put on roads to melt ice. These can hurt the car's paint. Wash the underside of the car too. Touch up chips in the paint. Wax your car to protect the paint.



Once you stop taking care of your car, there may be a No U Turn to get it looking as good as it once did.





Keep right on taking care of your car.
This will make your car last longer and
will save you money.

You can take a class to learn how to care for your
car or ask someone to show you how. You can also
read about car maintenance online at
www.edmunds.com.

When your car makes a strange noise or runs differently, merge into a repair shop. Have the problem checked out. This may keep a small problem from becoming a big one. If you catch a problem soon enough, you will be able to shop around for the best buy in car repairs.



If you wait to have small problems checked out, you may have to stop ahead at the nearest service station or repair shop. Then you may not get the best service at the best price. Do not be afraid to have a mechanic check the problem with his testing equipment. Knowing the problem for sure is far cheaper than guessing. The car can still be repaired at home if someone can do the repairs.

Ask friends for the names of good mechanics.

Everyone will have a different idea of which mechanic is the best, but knowing some names will help you decide.



Before choosing a mechanic, ask others if the service was good. Also, ask if the mechanic was honest.

Before having any work done, ask for an estimate.

Call other mechanics and ask what they would charge. Choose the best.

Always tell the mechanic to call you before they do any work that will cost more than the estimate.



Stop and ask these questions.

_____ How much will the repairs cost?

_____ Can you use credit to pay for repairs? What is the interest rate? What are the monthly payments?

_____ How long will the repairs take?

_____ Is the location and hours of business good for you?

_____ Will the repair shop pick up and deliver your car for service?

_____ Will the repair shop drop you off at home or work while repairs are made?

_____ Does the shop stand behind its repair work?

Take Care of Your Car

Every week

- _____ Check the oil. Add extra oil as needed. Change the oil every 5,000 miles. Use a new oil filter every other oil change.
- _____ Wash the car. Clean the windows. Vacuum the inside.

Every month

- _____ Check the water in the battery. Add distilled water as needed. Clean battery connections.
- _____ Clean the rubber edges of the wiper blades. Replace blades as needed.
- _____ Check the windshield washer fluid. Add fluid as needed.
- _____ Check the overflow bottle of the radiator. Add fluid as needed.
- _____ Check the air pressure in the tires. Add air as needed.
- _____ Check the lights to be sure they are working.

Every year

- _____ Check the drive belts and hoses. Replace every four years.
- _____ Replace the spark plugs if needed.
- _____ Replace the air filter.
- _____ Check the tire treads. Buy new tires as needed.
- _____ Rotate tires.
- _____ Have a mechanic do a “load check” on your battery to see how much power it has.

Taking care of your car is important. Keep your car in good repair or you may have to



or

