

Special points of interest:

- Gas Saving Tips
- I've Been in an Accident...What Do I Do?
- Ten Commandment for Car Buying
- Oil Change Myths

Gas prices got you running on empty? Here are some excellent fuel saving tips

Driving More Efficiently

Avoid Excessive Idling

Idling get 0 miles per gallon. Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than do cars with smaller engines

Drive Sensibly

Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gas. It can lower your gas mileage by 10% at highway speeds and by 5% around town. Sensible driving is also safer for you and others, so you may save more than gas money.

Observe the Speed Limit

Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$.10 per gallon for gas. Observing the speed limit is also safer.

Use Cruise Control

Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.

Use Overdrive Gears

When you use overdrive gearing, your car's engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.

Fuel-Saving Maintenance

Check Vehicle Gas Caps

About 17% of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or are missing altogether, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year.

Make Sure Tires are Properly Inflated

When tires aren't inflated properly, it's like driving with the parking brake on and can cost a mile or two per gallon.

Replace Spark Plugs Regularly

A vehicle can have either four, six or eight spark plugs which fire as many as 3 million times every 1,000 miles. That results in a lot of head, electrical and chemical erosion. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring, which wastes fuel. Spark plugs need to be replaced regularly.

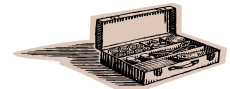
Replace Dirty Air Filters

An air filter that is clogged with dirt, dust and bugs chokes off the air and creates a "rich" mixture-too much gas being burned for the amount of air, which wastes gas and causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10% saving about 15 cents a gallon.

Important Items to Carry in Your Vehicle

In case of road-side emergencies, accidents or bad weather, always have in your vehicle the following items:

- ♦ Jumper cables
- ♦ Pliers, an adjustable wrench and a screw-driver
- ♦ A first-aid kit
- ♦ Blankets
- ♦ A supply of any regularly needed or taken medications
- ♦ Candles and matches
- ♦ Sand or kitty litter for climates with snow or ice
- ♦ Clean water
- ♦ Canned Fruit or nuts and a can opener



Other Features

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You've been in an accident...what do you do next?

"Who was at fault?"
"Will my car ever be right again?"
"What are my rights and responsibilities?"

What to do in case of an accident

Most drivers make costly, long-term decision errors immediately following an accident as fear gives way to anger and frustration. Questions race through your head faster than the mind can register them. Who was at fault? Will my car ever be right again? What are my rights and responsibilities? A calm and informed reaction to an accident will reduce your chances for additional grief and expense.

* Move your vehicle to a safe place, then stop and identify yourself to the other driver. (Some state or local statutes may require the vehicle be left as is.) If it can't be moved, turn on the hazard light. Seek medical help if you or other parties require it, and notify the police. Tell them who you are, where you are, and about any obvious or claimed injuries.

* Exchange information with the other driver's including driver's license numbers. Get the driver's name, address, telephone numbers and name of insurance company. Also, list any passengers and witnesses.

* Get names and badge numbers of any police officers who arrive at the scene. In there are injuries or extensive damage, the police should file a report. Ask to get a copy.

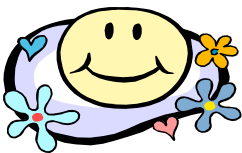
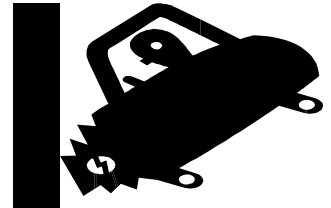
* Avoid any extensive discussions at the scene about who is responsible for damage. If the other person admits responsibility, offers a money settlement and you accept, any future claim against the driver may be compromised. You or the other party may later find damage and bodily injury not apparent at first.

* Write a complete description of the accident as soon as possible. Include weather conditions, estimated speeds, and as much precise information as you can observe. Take photographs if a camera is available.

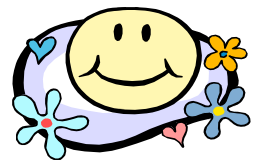
* Have the vehicle towed or driven to a collision repair facility of your choice.

* Notify your insurance company of the accident as soon as possible.

Source: Automotive Service Association (ASA)



KID'S CORNER



School's Out for the Summer!

It's time for the annual summer vacation road trip! Here are some fun ideas to take away the "are we there yet's!"

Make a Trip Journal or Scrapbook

Give everyone a big spiral bound sketchpad and a box of crayons or markers. Each day of the trip or for each event along the way, draw a picture of what you did that day, or draw a map of where you went, and write about it. You can also paste in souvenirs.

The License Plate Game

Print a U.S. map off the computer and color in the states as you see license plates from each one. See if you can get all 50 states between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Lego Contest

Have a contest to see who can build the best item that relates to where you are going. Use a shoebox to store the Lego's, or large zip lock bags.

Aluminum Art

Give everyone a sheet of aluminum foil. Have them mold it into anything they want: animal shapes, calls, jewelry, crowns, headband, necklaces, masks or an image from the trip itself!

Guess How Far Away That Is

Pick an object and have everyone guess how away they think it is then clock it on the odometer. Keep track of how many each person gets correct and how close they actually are to guessing the distance correct!

Time flies when you're having fun and the miles can fly by too! Planning ahead by having a few activities can make the difference between a tip and a vacation! Have a great, happy and safe summer!

How often should you really get your oil changed? 3000 miles, 3 months, after every long road trip? Is it really that big of a deal or is this just another way for the auto industry to make money?

Common Oil Change Myths

Precious metals push spark plugs past the 100,000 mile mark. Tire manufacturers offer lifetime warranties on their radials. Even some transmission are advertised as filled for life when they come off the assembly line.

The world is becoming a maintenance free place to drive...well almost.

Increasingly, motorists are asking the questions, "How long can I go between oil changes?" In the same breath, they mention extended drain intervals and if it's all right to go 7,500 miles or more between oil changes.

Motor oil is getting better all the time, but we're not to the point where we can safely say that you should go beyond 3,000 miles or 3 month oil-change intervals if you drive in severe conditions.

Let us dispel a few myths about motor oil and when to change it.

Myth 1: *I don't drive in severe conditions, therefore I don't have to change my oil as often.*

You'd better be sure. There are a wide variety of severe conditions, such as stop and go driving, hauling a load, short trips, extreme hot or cold temperatures and dusty areas.

Each of these conditions places a different stress on the engine, such as increasing operating temperatures



and/or increasing the amount of contaminants the oil has to hold in suspension. These conditions really push the oil to the limit.

"Normal" driving conditions consist of taking long highway trips with few stops and starts. People in sales who spend a lot of time on the road, or highway commuters may qualify. But, if you have any doubts, don't wait to change your oil. Changing oil is a lot easier than changing an engine, and more economical.

Myth 2: *Synthetics extend drain intervals.*

Synthetics are superior. The superior protection is from the processing required to manufacture the base stocks and the different additive packages they require.

Despite better performance, synthetics need to be changed at regular intervals. The additives wear out, just like in conventional motor oils, and need to be changed.

Myth 3: *As long as I change the oil filter, I can run longer between oil changes.*

Changing the filter is great, but you've got to change the oil along with it, given that the oil additives wear out and contaminants get into the oil itself. The filter can only capture the bigger particles suspended in the oil, not replenish spent additives.

Myth 4: *Over the road trucks sometimes have oil change intervals as high as 15,000 miles. If they can do it, why can't I?*

No. There are a number of fundamental differences in the lubricating systems on larger trucks, compared to cars.

First, truck engines can use up to three gallons of motor oil; a car, four and a half quarts. Second, trucks spend most of their time on the country's highways and away from stoplights; cars start and stop a lot more.

Extending the oil change interval beyond what the manufacturer recommends can seriously shorten the useful life of your engine.

Don't push the limits of the motor oil and flirt with damaging your engine, especially when you consider the cost of an oil change compared to the cost of a new engine.

Brought to you as a public service by Valvoline and the Car Care Council.

Extreme hot or cold, stop and go driving, hauling, short trips and dust effect the need for oil changes.

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- VEHICLE
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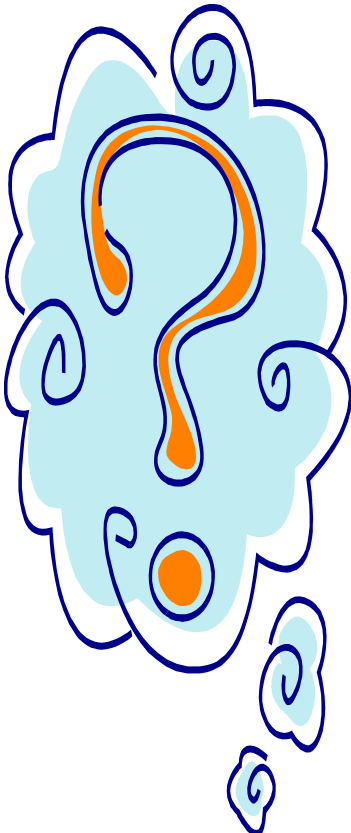
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Catch John on
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Ask the Expert



Question:

I've noticed some drip on my driveway, should I be concerned?

Expert:

The bad news is that drops beneath your car may signal trouble. The good news is discovering the cause is easy. By spreading out a large piece of paper underneath your car, leave it overnight, and in the morning check out the color of the drops. The color will help reveal the source of the problem.

Dark - A dark spot is typically motor oil, it typically means your engine is leaking oil and needs repair.

Red - Transmission fluid is red. Red spots may indicate that either front or rear automatic-transmission seals need replacing.

Green - Green or yellow oily fluid is coolant. This leak could be caused by a bad water pump or a leak in either the radiator or a hose.

Amber - Power steering fluid is amber. An amber stain may indicate a leak in the power-steering hose or pump.

Clear but oily - Any oily liquid with little color but a strong odor could be brake fluid. **Clear water** - Clear water is no need for concern. It is probably normal condensation from your air conditioner.

It is always a good idea to have any leaks checked out as the longer you wait to make a repair the more costly that repair can become. If you have further questions, go to the "Diagnose My Problem" page and our in house expert will get back to you within 24 hours!