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### Car Care Guide 2014: A Special Supplement from Logan Area Businesses & The Utah Statesman

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# Car Care Guide 2014

A special supplement from Logan area businesses & The Utah Statesman

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# **Gas saving tips** Eight tips for students on a tight budget

#### By Car Care News Service

Higher prices at the gas pump are a fact of life today. Some commuters share rides to manage the costs; others take public transportation. But if you are like countless other consumers, you depend on your personal vehicle to get you from Point A to Point B. So the experts at the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) have assembled some easy-to-follow tips from on how to conserve fuel and make sure your car or truck gets optimal miles per gallon.



#### Monitor the health of your tires.

Under-inflated tires or poorly aligned wheels waste fuel by forcing the engine to work harder.



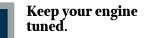
**Remove excess** weight.

Remove unnecessary items from vehicle. Less weight equals better mileage.



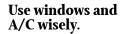
#### **Consolidate trips** and errands.

Also, try to plan those trips to times when traffic is light so you can avoid stop-and-go conditions.





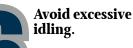
owner's manual; have engine performance problems corrected.



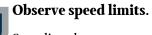


when driving at highway speeds to reduce air drag. Turn off the A/C in stop-

and-go traffic to save fuel.



Shut off the engine while waiting for friends and family.



Speeding decreases your miles per gallon.



Drive gently.

Sudden accelerations will guzzle gas. Anticipate the traffic patterns ahead, and adjust your speed

gradually.

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# Get your vehicle ready for Winter

#### By Car Care News Service

It's foolhardy to head out in a poorly maintained vehicle in the dead of winter, of course, but even vehicle owners in temperate zones need a car care check as the days grow shorter, note the pros with the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), an independent group that tests and certifies the competence of auto technicians.

"Regular, routine maintenance can help improve your gasoline mileage, reduce pollution, and catch minor problems before they become big headaches," says Tony Molla, vice president of communications at ASE.

ASE offers these car care tips to give you peace of mind during fall and winter driving:

Before you do anything else, read your owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommended service schedules.

Get engine performance and driveability problems — hard starts, rough idling, stalling, diminished power, etc. corrected at a reputable repair shop that employs ASE-certified repair professionals. Cold weather makes existing problems worse.

Replace dirty filters, such as air, fuel, and PCV. A poorly running engine is less efficient and burns more gasoline.

As the temperature drops below freezing, add a bottle of fuel deicer in your tank once a month to help keep moisture from freezing in the fuel line. Keeping the gas tank filled also helps prevent moisture from forming.

Change your oil and oil filter as specified in your manual — more often if your driving is mostly stop-and-go or consists of frequent short trips. A The heater and defroster must be in good working condition for passenger comfort and driver visibility.

Replace old blades regularly. If your climate is harsh, purchase rubberclad (winter) blades to fight ice build-up. Stock codes on some newer vehicles, so always check your owner's manual first. Be sure to avoid contact with corrosive deposits and battery acid.

Inspect all lights and bulbs. Replace burned out bulbs; periodically clean road grime from all lenses. To prevent



poll of ASE Master Auto Technicians revealed that regular oil and filter changes is one of the most frequently neglected services, yet one that is essential to protect your engine.

The cooling system should be flushed and refilled as recommended. The level, condition, and concentration of the coolant should be checked periodically. A 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water is usually recommended. Do-It-Yourselfers: Never remove the radiator cap until the engine has thoroughly cooled! The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps, and hoses also should be checked regularly by a professional technician.

up on windshield washer solvent — you'll be surprised how much you use during the winter months. And don't forget to always carry an ice scraper.

Have your battery checked. The only accurate way to detect a weak battery is with professional equipment. However, most motorists can perform routine care: Wear eye protection and protective rubber gloves. Scrape away corrosion from posts and cable connections; clean all surfaces; retighten all connections. If battery caps are removable, check fluid level monthly. A word of caution: Removal of cables can cause damage or loss of data/ scratching, never use a dry rag. Clouded lenses can be refinished by many service outlets or by using a DIY kit found in major auto parts outlets.

Exhaust fumes inside your vehicle's cabin can be deadly. Have the exhaust system examined for leaks and problems while the vehicle is on a lift. The trunk and floorboards should also be inspected for small holes.

Worn tires are dangerous in winter weather. Examine tires for remaining tread life, uneven wearing, and cupping; check the sidewalls for cuts and nicks. Check tire pressure once a month, letting the tires "cool down" before checking the pressure. Rotate as recommended. Don't forget to check your spare, and be sure the jack is in good working condition. Under-inflated tires or poorly aligned wheels makes your engine work harder and thus use excess gasoline.

Have your brakes checked periodically for safety and to prevent costly repairs that can be caused by neglect.

T h e transmission is often neglected until a major failure. Routine checks and fluid changes at prescribed intervals can prevent very costly repairs down the line.

Always carry an emergency kit with you: extra gloves, boots and blankets; flares; a small shovel and sand or kitty litter; tire chains; a flashlight and extra batteries; and a cell phone and extra car charger. Put a few "highenergy" snacks in your glove box.

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) was founded in 1972 as a nonprofit, independent organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service repair through and the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. ASE-certified technicians wear blue and white ASE shoulder insignia and carry credentials listing their exact area(s) of certification. Their employers often display the blue and white ASE sign.

For more information, including seasonal car care tips, visit www.ase.com.



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# Most Dangerous place this winter is the road

By Sandy McCollum Copley News Service

A not-at-all-trivial question: What's the most likely way to get injured in a snowstorm?

#### Answer: Drive in it.

Snow and ice are beautiful to look at; ugly when viewed through a wrecked car window. About 70 percent of snow and ice injuries are from vehicle accidents. Heavy snowfall and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Storms can close highways, block roads, down power lines and cause hypothermia.

If severe weather is projected to hit your area or is already in your area, stay inside. "If it's not necessary to be out there, don't," said Sgt. Mike Vorreyer with the Illinois State Police. Keep ahead of the storm by listening for the latest winter storm warnings, watches and advisories on National Weather Service radio. or commercial radio and television.

Sometimes you don't have a choice; you have to pick up a child or go to work. If a trip is absolutely necessary - and it's possible - travel in the day, don't travel alone, and keep others informed of your schedule. Stav on main roads: avoid back road shortcuts

Make sure your car is prepared well in advance. Make sure you have good all-season tires that can handle different types of weather. "The big thing is tire pressure," says Bill Law, owner of Check Point Tire and Service

#### ATTRACT RESCUERS' **ATTENTION**

- If you do get trapped in a blizzard in your car, you should set your lights on flashing; hang a piece of cloth or distress flag from the radio antenna or window, or display a trouble sign. Turn on the vehicle's dome light at night when the vehicle is running so work crews or rescuers can see vou. After the snow stops, raise the hood to indicate you need help.

#### STAY SAFE AND WARM

- Run the car's engine and turn on the heater for about 10 minutes each hour. When the engine is running, open a window slightly. This will protect you from carbon monoxide. You may need to clear snow away from the car's exhaust pipe. Use road maps, seat covers, newspapers and floor mats for warmth, and huddle with the other passengers.

#### **STAY IN THE CAR**

- Do not leave the car to search for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards. You may become disoriented and lost in blowing and drifting snow. If you are stranded in a remote area you may need to leave the car on foot after the blizzard passes.

#### WATCH FOR SIGNS OF FROSTBITE AND HY-**POTHERMIA**

- Do minor exercises to keep up circulation. Clap hands and move arms and legs occasionally. Try not to stay in one position for too long.

# Survival guide to winter driving

Winter requires motorists to adjust their plans, habits and attitudes. Some tips:

#### Anticipate problems

If you have to act suddenly, it might be too late: a stream of brake lights ahead means that you, too, will need to slow or stop; start early to avoid chain pileups; try to spot alternatives; be aware of your position relative to other cars

Getting out of a spin

your car is front-wheel or

rear-wheel drive - or

four-wheel, for that

Don't panic if the rear end of your car begins to slide;

your front tires are still gripping the road; in most

cases you can straighten the car if you act

quickly and smoothly, steering the front

wheels in the direction the rear wheels

are trying to go; this applies whether

#### Think snow

Before climbing in the car, adjust your thinking to the weather; reduce speeds; stay farther away from other vehicles; double your usual braking distance; icy streets can rob tires of 80 percent of their arip

#### Take it slow

wipers work.

A sudden burst of speed, change of direction or jab at the brakes can start a skid; don't be lulled by others moving rapidly or by your vehicle's ability to zip along with front-wheel or four-wheel drive; the essential thing is to be able to stop

Center in Chatham, Ill.

He also advises motorists

to make sure the cooling

system is clean, fuel in-

jection is working and the

defroster and windshield

Regain control; don't accelerate until tires regain their grip on the road

#### Getting rolling

If you're stuck on ice, the key is patience; dig whatever you can from the drive wheels, and use sand, cat litter or another traction-booster; start in second gear if you can; avoid spinning the wheels, which heats tires, digs an icy trough and can lead to blowout or fire; if you rock the car, avoid sudden shifts between forward and reverse with an automatic transmission; it gets hot and stressed by having to reverse wheel spin directions. Instead, try to stop the car at the peak of each direction so wheels auit spinning

Rear end snaps back to right; turn steering



matter

Rear end slides to left; turn steering wheel to left; ease back on the gas pedal

Source: Motoring columnist Paul Brand; Minneapolis AAA Graphic: Minneapolis Star Tribune

wheel to right.



#### Stopping a slide

For anti-lock brakes, continuous firm pressure is recommended; if your vehicle isn't equipped with an ABS system, pump the brake pedal as rapidly as possible; if the brakes lock, instantly ease pressure on the pedal until the front tires begin turning again; if you've lost all control, then stand on the brake pedal completely; locking all four tires will keep the vehicle moving in a straight line even in a spin, so its path will be more predictable to other drivers

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 Image: Constrained and the constr

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