

Car Care Tops List of Thanksgiving Preparations

As Americans get ready for Thanksgiving, car care tops the list of pre-holiday preparations, according to a survey conducted by the Car Care Council.

Both men and women say they are more likely to make sure the car taking them to Thanksgiving dinner is prepared for the trip (66 percent) than they are to iron tablecloths (18 percent) or polish silver (12 percent) in advance of the holiday meal.

“Proper car care is important at all times, but is particularly critical during the busiest travel season of the year,” said Rich White, spokesman for the Car Care Council. “Yet, despite good intentions, the majority of motorists do not always follow through.”

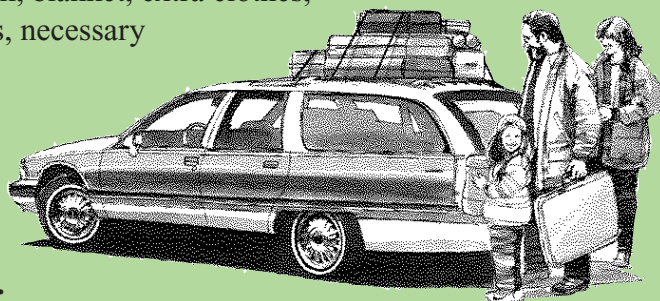
“Our survey found that 86 percent of drivers believe regular car maintenance is extremely important for their own and their passengers’ safety. 85 percent of drivers cite dependability as a highly important characteristic for the vehicles they drive,” said White. “Yet, vehicle inspections showed that nearly four out of five cars had one or more systems, products, or fluids that needed to be repaired or replaced.”

With millions of Americans planning to travel by motor vehicle for the Thanksgiving holiday, it is important to act on good intentions and make sure cars are well maintained to ensure vehicle safety and dependability and to avoid costly repairs.

As part of the “Be Car Care Aware” campaign, the Council recommends the following pre-Thanksgiving checks:

- Check the coolant (antifreeze); coolant should be flushed and refilled every 2-5 years in most vehicles
- Check the owner’s manual to see if your driving habits are considered “severe,” and if so, have the oil changed accordingly, usually every 3000-5000 miles.
- Check the battery and exhaust system.
- Be certain the heater and defroster are working properly.
- Check tire tread depth and tire pressure; consider special tires if snow and ice are a problem in your area.
- Check to see that lights work and headlights are properly aimed.
- Replace wiper blades every six months.
- Be prepared for an emergency with the following items in your trunk: ice scraper, wind shield de-icer, flashlight, whisk broom, blanket, extra clothes, candle/matches, bottled water, snacks, necessary medications and a first aid kit.

The Pella Car Care team can assist you on the best maintenance and repairs for your car, pickup, or SUV. Let us help you save money and get the maximum life out of your vehicle.



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- Load test battery
- Clean Battery if needed
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Service is our business and complete customer satisfaction is our most important goal. Honesty, reliability, and knowledge are the foundations of our business philosophy. Please think of us for your next automotive service. Thank you!

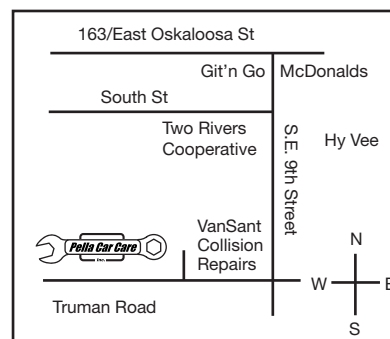
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Don't Get Stranded Out In The Cold This Winter

Have you had your car serviced for winter?

What are the most critical needs? Oil change? Antifreeze? Tires? Windshield wipers, washer fluid antifreeze? All of the above?

It's all in your owner's manual, of course, but somehow those books are not always where they ought to be.

Not to worry. The technicians at Pella Car Care who are dedicated to automotive service excellence offer these valuable tips and reminders of services that deserve attention before the first cold snap.



THE BATTERY

A potential weak point in cold weather is the battery, whose power decreases as the temperature drops. Add to this the fact that summer heat is hard on a battery and you have even more potential for starting trouble. Also, be sure that connections are tight and free of corrosion.

TIRES

Did you know that your tires may be seriously under-inflated if they had not been checked and inflated since late summer when the temperature still was pushing 90 degrees. Inflated to the proper 36 psi at that time could mean that now, with single digit temperatures, they're down to about 26 psi or less. Typically, tire pressure decreases 1 or 2 pounds for every 10 degrees of temperature drop.

Under-inflation leads to excessive tire wear and wasted gas. The experts emphasize that you can not determine proper inflation by looking at the tires. It takes an accurate tire gauge. If you haven't done this recently, have the vehicle hoisted on a lift for a close inspection for tread wear, cuts or other damage. A tire worn to the "wear bars" on the tread pattern is unsafe and prone to hydroplaning (loss of contact with the road) on wet surfaces.

DRIVEABILITY/CONTROL

When you get behind the wheel and start driving, your car becomes an extension of your body: your foot on the brake pedal and accelerator, your hands on the steering wheel. You're in charge unless, of course, something goes wrong. Frequently an accident occurs because of a combination of mechanical malfunctions. Shock absorbers and brakes that do their job by helping maintain control can make the difference between a near miss and tragedy. A responsive engine and transmission can make the difference when a driver miscalculates the time and distance needed to pass when an oncoming vehicle is getting too close for comfort.



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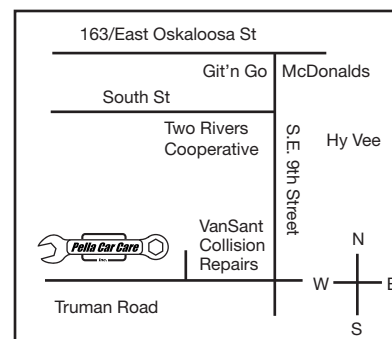
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