



Riverfront Collision Center Car Maintenance Tips

Welcome to our 5th Edition of our Riverfront Collision Center's (RFCC) Quarterly Newsletter. It is intended to provide our customers with upcoming vehicle tips, savings and special events that are being hosted by or advertised by RFCC. If you have a topic for the next edition of the newsletter, let us know! You can e-mail me at dgardner@riverfrontcollisioncenter.com.

When you notice anything unusual about your car - noises, smells, leaks or problems braking and handling - make an appointment with a certified mechanic to have it inspected. Some problems can lead to serious damage if they aren't repaired. Carefully explain the symptoms of the problem to your mechanic for an accurate diagnosis. Ask them to save the old parts and if offered get any guarantees in writing. Take your car to a different shop for a second opinion if this will ease your worries about getting scammed. So, with that being said, even if your vehicle is old or new, warranty or not, following a few simple tips could save you potential problems in the future.

A lot of women these days are more independent and since independence crosses all walks of life, it follows that car maintenance is no longer just a man's job. Nonetheless an astonishing number of women do not know the basics of vehicle maintenance therefore they fear of being taken advantage of when they have their car repaired or serviced. There are a lot of reputable repair shops out there but the bad or unethical ones, introduced to us by news cameras or friends who paid too much for repairs, are the ones that stick in our minds inspiring fear. The more you know about your car, the better you can maintain it and makes it a lot easier when conversing with the mechanics and service departments.

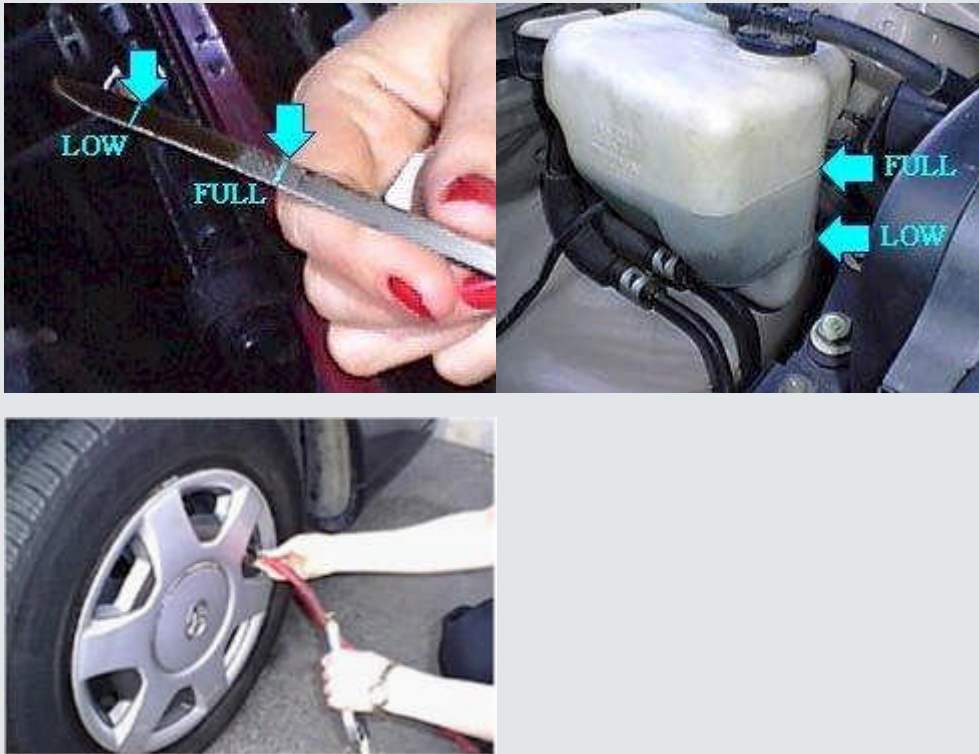
Check our Website for other services offered and SPECIALS!

A one stop shop, Professional, Courteous & the Best warranty in the business.

Sincerely,

Denny Gardner
Riverfront Collision Center

Basic Car Maintenance for Women



Riverfront Collision Center will offer a Basic Car Maintenance for Women that would like to learn the basics of car preventative maintenance (men are also welcomed). Classes are 45 minutes every second Saturday of the month (starting January 2010). Call the Riverfront Collision Center West at 706.228.1872 or go to <http://www.riverfrontcollisioncenter.com/preventivemaintenance.htm> location for more information. The maintenance procedures that everyone should know are:

- How to check oil level
- How to check coolant level
- How to check automatic transmission fluid
- How to check tire pressure
- CV-joint boots
- How to Jump Start a Vehicle
- What to do when your Engine Check Light comes on
- How to Change Windshield Wiper Blades
- Changing Headlamps and Taillight bulbs
- Checking Tires for Proper Tread wear
- What you should have in your vehicle incase of an emergency
- How to change a tire

Car Maintenance Checklist

CHECK EVERY MONTH

- oil level -- add oil if low and check for leaks
- hoses -- replace if bulging, rotten, or brittle
- belts -- replace if worn, frayed, or glazed
- tire pressure -- add air if low
- coolant or antifreeze -- add more if low
- air filter -- replace if dirty
- inspect tires for leaks, damage, bulges, or uneven wear

CHECK EVERY 3 MONTHS

- oil and oil filter -- change every 3,000 miles
- windshield washer fluid -- add fluid if low
- battery and power steering fluid -- add fluid if low
- brake fluid -- add fluid if low
- transmission fluid -- add fluid if low
- battery terminals and cables -- clean if corroded

CHECK EVERY 6 MONTHS

- wiper blades -- replace if worn, brittle, or smeary
- make sure headlights, brake lights, and turn signals work
- make sure horn works properly
- inspect brakes for wear and tear or "slippage"
- make sure spare tire is fully inflated
- inspect exhaust system for rust, damage, or loose parts
- inspect shock absorbers for oil seepage or wear

Car Maintenance Tips

Learning the basics of car maintenance will keep it in top running condition and potentially save you a lot of money in vehicle repairs.

1. Read the Owner's Manual

First and foremost, you need to know your car. The owner's manual is a great place to start as it contains all the basics, such as fuel type, tire size, tire inflation levels and type of engine. It also outlines maintenance schedules for oil changes, filter replacements, belt changes and similar procedures. Learning the details about its parts, how it runs and when to take it in for maintenance makes you an informed owner and will help in reducing costly breakdowns.

2. Change the Oil

Plan to change your motor oil every 3,000 miles or every 3 months if you want to be on the safe side, but know that most cars no longer require an oil change after every 3,000 miles. You will not damage the engine by letting it run 4,000 miles in between oil changes. Some cars have an oil-life monitor that will notify the driver when the oil needs to be changed. In addition, use the type of oil the automaker suggests; this alone will increase your vehicle's longevity.

3. Maintain Tire Air Pressure

It's very important to check and maintain proper air pressure in your car's tires. Underinflated

tires are the No. 1 cause of tire failure or flats. When a tire is underinflated, it builds up heat internally, which can cause a blowout. Underinflated tires also decrease fuel economy by as much as 10 percent. Look on the driver's doorjamb for a label marked Tire and Loading Information for more details. It's best to check tire pressure when the tires are cool. Use a quality tire-pressure gauge.

4. Pay Attention to Your Car's Warning Lights

Modern vehicles can have any number of warning lights for various onboard components like the antilock braking system. Sometimes, the behavior of a given warning light - a flashing check engine light versus a steady one - may indicate two entirely different issues, so it's important to understand each warning light's purpose, its various modes and what to do if they illuminate. You can generally consult your owner's manual to learn this information.

5. Check Your Vehicle's Vital Fluids Regularly

These include your radiator coolant, engine oil, brake fluid, power-steering fluid and automatic transmission fluid. You can do this, or a mechanic can take a look during routine maintenance. Ask how to properly check these things yourself, too. The owner's manual provides details about fluid levels and recommended maintenance.

***Note:** Never remove the radiator cap when the engine is hot or the car is running. Check your oil when the car is off but the engine is still warm. Check the transmission fluid with the car running but in Park.*

6. Get Rubber Engine Components Inspected

Belt and hose failures are the No. 1 cause of roadside breakdowns. Rubber components under the hood are exposed to extreme heat, so they tend to wear out faster than other parts on your car. Get belts and hoses inspected every six months and before long trips. It's more cost effective to replace them before a breakdown occurs.

7. Know Your Car's Acronyms

Many of today's vehicles come with a healthy dose of alphabet soup: ABS, TCS, ESP, etc. These letters often designate a computer-controlled function that enhances the driving experience. An antilock braking system, or ABS, is a computerized system that prevents wheel lockup and skidding during braking. If your ABS light comes on and stays on, you should take your car to a mechanic for inspection because there could be a problem with the system.

Note: TCS, or traction control system, helps eliminate wheel spin during acceleration. ESP could mean an electronic stability program is part of your car's features. There are many acronyms affiliated with vehicles today, and the only way to find out what some of these things mean is to look in the owner's manual.

8. Know Which Wheels Drive Your Car

Is it equipped with front, rear or all-wheel drive? A front-wheel-drive car will handle differently than one equipped with rear- or all-wheel drive, and vice versa. This is especially true when road conditions are poor. Front-drive cars have been praised for their ability to accelerate and maneuver in snowy conditions, but modern rear-wheel-drive cars equipped with traction control and an electronic stability system are a far cry from the fishtailing, rear-drive cars of the past. All-wheel-drive systems send available engine power to the wheels with the most traction and can enhance dry-road handling characteristics in addition to snow performance.

9. Keep Your Car Clean

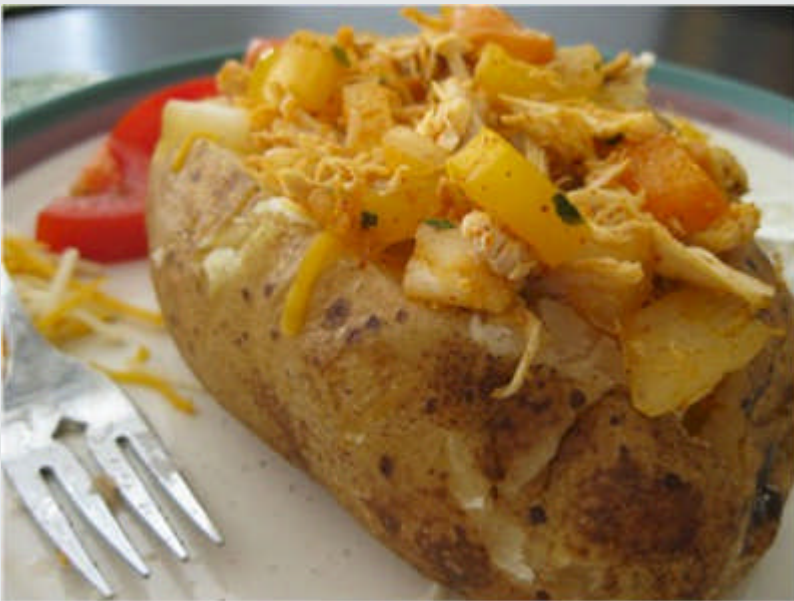
Don't drive around with dirty windows, and make sure your headlights are clean and properly aimed. Dirty headlamps can drastically reduce the amount of illumination provided; if you can't see something on or alongside the road, you can't avoid it. Additionally, an improperly aimed headlight greatly reduces its effectiveness and affects visibility for oncoming drivers. Keep your car clean, if for no other reason than safety.

December Recipe

Potato Fajitas

Serve with tomatoes, shredded cheese and sour cream.

Serves two.



Ingredients

- **2 large white baking potatoes, scrubbed**
- **6 skinless chicken tenderloins**
- **one fourth cup yellow bell pepper (diced)**
- **one fourth cup orange bell pepper (diced)**
- **one half cup onion (diced)**
- **dried cilantro (dash)**
- **chili powder (dash)**
- **ground ancho chili pepper (dash)**
- **ground cumin (dash)**
- **one lime**
- **extra virgin olive oil**
- **kosher salt**
- **ground black pepper**

Directions

Add a few teaspoons of extra virgin olive oil to potato skins and sprinkle with kosher salt. Wrap potatoes individually in foil, place in baking dish and bake in oven at 400 degrees for 1.5 hours or until done. (Check with fork after one hour, but be careful of the hot oil under the foil.) You may increase the temperature to speed up baking time, but the potato skin won't be as tasty.

Boil chicken in water with black pepper and salt on medium high until thoroughly cooked (around 30 minutes if frozen, less for fresh).

Cut away any fat and shred chicken with a fork.

Cook peppers and onions on medium with olive oil until tender.

Add the shredded chicken to the peppers and onions, and season with cilantro, chili powder, cumin and ancho pepper.

Squeeze lime juice over chicken mixture and cook for another minute.

Cut open baked potato and fill with chicken mixture, cheese and sour cream.

Enjoy!

RFCC

Christmas Fun Facts

Henry Cole, an Englishman, was too busy to write personal greetings for Christmas 1843. Cole hired artist John Calcott Horsley to design a ready-to-be-sent card. The hand-colored card Horsley designed was lithographed on stiff, dark cardboard and featured adults and children raising wine glasses in a toast.

The first Christmas card also had various religious symbols. Sprigs of holly symbolized chastity, while ivy symbolized places God had walked. Feeding and clothing the poor were also encouraged on the card's cover. Under the picture was written "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you." Printed in an edition of 1,000, Horsley's card was sold in London stores. Only one of those cards exists today.

Two reasons for the initial popularity of Christmas cards are given: The custom may have caught on because greetings could be mailed for a penny each in 1843, London. The other reason is attributed to a scandal with Horsley's design. A family, surrounded with religious symbols, holding glasses of wine, offended some. The controversy is thought to have helped promote Cole's idea.

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Louis Prang created the first American Christmas cards at his Boston factory in 1874.

American families sent and received an average of 28 Christmas cards each.

Kris Kringle is the German words for "Christ's Child"

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The first Animal Crackers were not made for eating...
they were made as Christmas tree decorations!

HOLIDAY SPECIALS



Holiday Travel Special
\$14.50
Oil Change

\$14.50 and 1 New Unwrapped Toy

- Oil Change
- All Fluids Checked and Topped Off
- Car Wash & Vacuum
- 27 Point Inspection
(Rain Check for Oil change & Car Wash)

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Your car, your choice

TOYS FOR TOTS

No diesels, includes 5 qts oil & filter, no synthetic oils, special includes a free car wash & vacuum and a 27 point check great before your holiday travel. Rain check for oil change & car wash available offer good till 12/24/09. Not Valid with any other promotions or coupons. www.riverfrontcollisioncenter.com/specials.htm



Holiday Travel Special
\$19.99
Rotation & Balance

SHOCKING GREAT DEAL
Includes rotation and balance of
4 tires PLUS brake inspection:

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TOYS FOR TOTS

Expires 12/24/2009
Plus tax, disposal fee and shop supplies. You must print this coupon and present it at time of write-up to take advantage of this Internet Special. One coupon Per purchase.

Offer Expires: 24 December 2009

You must print coupon and present it at time of write-up to take advantage of this Internet Special. One coupon Per purchase.

Always remember, you have the right to go to the repair shop of your choice. Your insurance company cannot require you to go to a particular shop.

"YOUR CAR, YOUR CHOICE"

Sincerely,

Denny Gardner
Riverfront Collision Center