



Time For Your Tires To Have Their Post-Winter Checkup!

Salt, grime and potholes can take a toll on tires over the course of a typical winter. Drivers will not get far this spring and summer without tires in good repair, which is why tire maintenance should be part of any seasonal repair checklist.

Inflation levels

Now is the time to use a tire pressure gauge to see if tires are at the ideal inflation levels. Many tires indicate the recommended PSI (pounds per square inch) on their sidewalls. Cold temperatures may cause tires to deflate a little. Esurance states that winter weather can cause tire pressure reduction at about one PSI for every 10 degrees the temperature drops. Driving on improperly inflated tires can be dangerous, potentially affecting handling and braking distances.

Check tires when they are cold for the most accurate reading. Properly inflated tires also will improve fuel economy, so drivers may even save a little money by inflating their tires.

Tire rotation/realignment

Examine the tires for tread wear. Any uneven or abnormal tread wear could indicate that the tires need to

be rotated and the wheels realigned at the very least. Take the vehicle to a qualified mechanic to get their opinion on how to remedy the situation. Mechanics may recommend rotating tires every 6,000 to 8,000 miles, or about every six months for the average driver.

Wheel realignment may be necessary after a season of driving over potholes and other irregularities in the road. Misaligned wheels can cause handling problems, like the car "pulling" to one side.

Tire replacement

Drivers may discover extreme tread wear, bulges or even cracks in the sidewall during a tire inspection. These signs indicate that it's time to replace the tires. Failing to replace old, worn down tires can increase the risk of automobile accidents.

Thorough cleaning

Once tires are inspected and possibly serviced or replaced, treat the car or truck to a washing and thorough detailing. This will help tires shine and get the vehicle road-ready for spring trips.

Call Rusty's Tire and Alignment for all your tire needs! They have been serving this area for nearly 20 years, call 639-7447.

Wise Precautions Can Deter Thefts From Cars

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that a vehicle is stolen every 44 seconds in the United States. And it's not just the expensive models that are targets of thieves.

Guarding against car theft comes down to avoiding common pitfalls, using common sense and making vehicles less attractive to thieves.

- **Lock doors.** This may seem like a no-brainer, but giving thieves easy access to vehicles increases the risk of theft. Always lock the vehicle, even if you're only running into the house or a store for a few minutes.
- **Keep valuables hidden.** Don't leave purchases, cell phones, money (even loose change), expensive sunglasses, or electronics within sight in the vehicle.
- **Exercise caution with spare keys.** Do not hide a spare key under the vehicle or in an obvious spot. Car thieves are wise to these tactics. Also, if you've lent a spare key to someone, ask for it back promptly.
- **Invest in a car alarm.** Car alarms can deter thieves because they draw attention to the vehicle. Car alarms that also prevent the vehicle from being started or driven away (kill switch) can be helpful.
- **Use various locks.** Manufacturers make steering wheel locks and brake locks that render cars undrivable unless they are removed.
- **Be visible when parking.** Choose highly visible parking spots when out and about. These include spaces that are close to building entrances, near security cameras and in well-lit areas. Cars that are more visible are



- less likely to be targeted by thieves.
 - **Don't leave it running.** According to the safety resource Safewise, nearly half of all auto thefts occur as a result of not performing reasonable precautions — such as failure to turn off the vehicle after exiting. More than one-third of all thefts occur near the car owner's residence. Resist the urge to "warm up" the vehicle by leaving it running with the keys in the ignition.
 - **Get VIN etching.** Etching the VIN on windows makes it more expensive for car thieves to resell a vehicle or its parts without having to make replacements.
 - **Buy a tracking system.** In the event a car is stolen, GPS tracking devices can help cops recover the vehicle more rapidly.
- Car theft can be a serious concern, but exercising caution can prevent vehicles from being targeted.

Ask Key Questions When Car-Shopping

When shopping for a pre-owned car, ask pointed questions about its condition and features.

Relatively new cars with high mileage may raise red flags, so ask how many owners such vehicles had and if maintenance records are available.

Consumer Reports magazine says a high-mileage car used on a long highway commute is better than if the car does many short trips or stop-and-go driving.



Be sure to ask if a vehicle you're considering has been in an accident or if there are any recalls on the make and model.

Fix Fluid Leaks Without Draining Your Bank Account

Drivers expect to experience a few bumps in the road as their vehicles age. While certain issues, such as worn shocks or engine troubles, are best left to the professionals, drivers can address many other issues that commonly affect aging vehicles on their own.

Fluid leaks are one of the more routine problems that plague older vehicles. While leaks are not necessarily a sign of doom and gloom, they tend to distress vehicle owners and can affect drivability. In addition, automotive fluids that seep out of vehicles can prove harmful to the environment.

Leaks may not be a concern for drivers of new vehicles, but studies show that drivers are keeping their vehicles for longer than ever before, suggesting that leaks are becoming a greater issue for more and more motorists. A 2016 study from the Institute for Highway Safety found that the average age of vehicles on the road in the United States is nearly 12 years. By 2021, the IHS expects a 30 percent increase in vehicles that are 16 years or older.

So how can drivers address leaky vehicles before they contribute to potentially larger, more costly problems? Fortunately, leaks can be a relatively simple fix, which should assuage any fears drivers may have as the numbers on their odometers continue to rise.

Identifying leaks

Identifying leaks is the first step toward fixing them. Often the simplest way to identify which fluid is leaking is to determine its color. Red fluid suggests a leak in the power steering system or transmission, while black fluid typically indicates old oil or transmission fluid that has gone bad. If the leaky fluid is green or yellow, then it's likely engine coolant.



Fixing leaks

Once drivers have identified which fluid is leaking, they can then take steps to fix the leak. Unlike other problems that plague older vehicles, leaks can typically be fixed quickly and affordably.

Stop leak solutions are designed to provide faster, less expensive alternatives for drivers who may be facing costly mechanical repairs. These products can be especially valuable to drivers of older vehicles. Stop leak products also can be valuable in the face of emergencies, giving drivers time to get their vehicles to their mechanics.

If your vehicle develops oil leak, you could easily run your car low on oil and not realize it's happening until that fearsome red light flashes on.

In Greenville, one established business that can help you keep track of your vehicle's oil levels and the levels of all other key

fluids is Quick Lube, located at 635 E Andrew Johnson Highway. Their experienced staff will check levels throughout your vehicle with expert eyes and bring them up to where they should be.

They can also help you ascertain where and why fluid leaks are occurring.

If your car needs a lubrication job, Quick Lube can do that too. That too is especially important in older-model vehicles.

Open six days a week starting at 8 a.m., Quick Lube's convenient hours and location are designed for customer convenience.

As more and more drivers look to extend the life of their vehicles, leaks figure to factor more heavily in the concerns of motorists. Addressing such leaks can be easy, quick and affordable.