



# Spring Car Care

**2025 - *GET READY FOR WARMER DAYS***

A supplement of the **Journal Review**

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# Detailing your car this spring: a “little luxury” you’ll appreciate



Spring is here, and with it comes the tradition of spring cleaning. After a harsh winter, your vehicle is probably covered in dirt and grime. It's the perfect time to clean your car from top to bottom. If you enjoy cleaning and have a few hours to spare, you can do it yourself. However, having it professionally detailed is a little luxury with numerous advantages.

Professional detailers offer top-quality cleaning. They use professional-grade products specifically designed for each material, and they employ the best techniques to remove stubborn stains. Whether it's an exterior wash or a complete interior cleaning, every inch of your vehicle will be treated with the utmost attention to detail.

## WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

Most detailing companies offer various services, including carpet and seat cleaning, window washing, headlamp polishing, odour treatment and bodywork protection using high-performance products, such as waxes, rust removers and nano-ceramic coatings.

Finally, remember that a well-maintained vehicle gives you more than an enjoyable driving experience; it also holds its value for longer. If you ever plan on selling your vehicle, a thorough spring cleaning every year will help you secure a better price. Book an appointment with a local detailing company today.



## Tips to reduce wear and tear on your vehicle

### 1. AGGRESSIVELY STOPPING AND STARTING

Rapid acceleration and sudden braking are hard on your engine, brakes and tires. Instead, accelerate gradually and coast to a stop whenever possible. This approach reduces stress on your car's engine and extends the life of brake pads and rotors. Plus, smooth driving can save you money at the pump.

### 2. DRIVING WITH LOW FUEL

Frequently driving with your gas tank less than one-quarter full can damage your fuel pump and draw debris into the fuel system. Making a habit of refueling before your tank gets too low will help you maintain a cleaner fuel system.

### 3. NEGLECTING PROPER TIRE CARE

Driving with incorrect tire pressure or ignoring regular tire rotations can lead to uneven tire wear and reduced fuel efficiency. Check your tire pressure monthly and have your tires rotated regularly. Additionally, periodically check

the tread depth to maintain sufficient grip on the road.

4. Ignoring dashboard warning lights  
Many drivers tend to overlook warning lights, hoping the issues will resolve themselves. However, ignoring these signals can lead to costly repairs and unsafe driving conditions. Always address warning lights promptly.

### 5. FORGETTING ABOUT REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Skipping oil changes, filter replacements and inspections will lead to increased wear and tear, which can result in breakdowns. Follow the maintenance schedule in your owner's manual to prevent long-term damage. Consider visiting a reputable local shop for professional help.

By following these tips, you can save money on repairs and extend your car's lifespan.

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# Why and how to decontaminate your car's paintwork

Your car's paintwork is put to the test all year round. From de-icing products and tar residue to insect debris, tree sap and iron particles, it endures a lot. Decontaminating your car's paintwork is essential to prevent these impurities from damaging the surface and leading to rust. Spring is the perfect time to tackle this task.

## DO IT YOURSELF AT HOME

If you enjoy giving your car some TLC, you're in luck. You can buy specially formulated products to decontaminate your car's paintwork. Clay bars and chemical solvents are particularly effective for removing stubborn dirt. Start by giving your car a thorough wash. Then, follow the manufacturer's instructions for applying the product. Make sure to avoid any sudden movements.

## LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONALS

If you prefer to leave the job to the experts, hire a company specializing in car care and detailing. Professionals use high-quality decontamination products and techniques to eliminate even the toughest contaminants. Additionally, they often offer complementary services, such as applying protective products to extend the life of your car's paintwork.

Whether you choose to decontaminate your car's paintwork yourself or hand it over to the professionals, the key is regular maintenance. Visit an automotive supply store or schedule an appointment with a local detailing company. Your car will appreciate it.



## Spring car care

## Not dealing with the professionals is a risky bet



Spring has sprung! Are you considering trying to save money by servicing your vehicle yourself or asking a friend or family member to help? Not so fast! This could end up costing you more in the long run. Here's why.

First and foremost, proper vehicle maintenance requires specialized tools and knowledge. Without them, you risk making a big mistake. For example, checking the tire pressure improperly or changing the oil incorrectly can lead to premature wear and tear or even a serious breakdown.

In addition, many modern components, such as electronic systems, require advanced diagnostics. Ignoring a minor issue could lead to a major problem, leaving you stranded on

the side of the road on your summer road trip.

Letting someone unqualified maintain your vehicle is also a risky bet. Doing so could lead to abnormal wear on various systems, improperly installed parts or even injuries due to careless handling. These unfortunate outcomes could end up costing you hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

In contrast, a professional mechanic can provide you with peace of mind. They have the necessary tools and expertise to perform thorough, compliant and safe maintenance.

Don't wait for a serious problem to occur. Schedule an appointment at a local garage today for an inspection.

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## Electric vs. gasoline-powered vehicles: different maintenance?



Experts often emphasize the easy maintenance of electric vehicles (EVs), and for good reason. However, this doesn't mean they're immune to damage or wear. Here's a look at how EV maintenance differs from that of gasoline-powered vehicles.

### THE COMPONENTS

Traditional gasoline-powered cars have several components that don't exist in electric vehicles, like spark plugs, a fuel tank and an exhaust system. Fewer components typically mean less maintenance. According to one study, owning an electric vehicle can save you around \$500 per year based on an average of 20,000 kilometres driven.

### PROBLEM AREAS

Electric vehicles tend to be heav-

ier than gasoline-powered cars. This added weight puts more stress on their suspension and steering systems, which often require special attention during annual maintenance.

Additionally, the regenerative braking system in EVs means that the brake pedal is used less frequently, causing the brake pads to wear more slowly. However, this can increase the risk of rust developing on the pads. For this reason, it's best to have a mechanic conduct regular inspections.

Finally, while gasoline-powered cars may have a few extra expenses, poor maintenance of an electric vehicle can lead to significantly higher repair costs.

# Taking a vehicle out of storage: what to check before hitting the road

After spending the winter stored away from the snow, it's time to get your vehicle back on the road. On top of updating your insurance, it's important to check several key components of your vehicle. Here's a short checklist.

## GENERAL CONDITION

Take a moment to inspect the overall condition of your vehicle. Examine the tires, bodywork, engine and interior. Look for any fluid leaks and ensure no pests have made your vehicle their home.

## BATTERY

Check for signs of corrosion on the battery terminals. Also, verify that the battery is adequately charged, especially if you removed it for storage. A good rule of thumb is to recharge the battery if its voltage is below 12V—you can check it with a multimeter.

## ENGINE OIL

Even if you haven't driven your vehicle, the engine oil can deteriorate over time. Take this opportunity to change both the oil and the filter to keep your vehicle running smoothly when you get back in the driver's seat.

## BRAKES

It's a good idea to service your brake system after your car has been in storage. Check that the brake pads are in good condition and free of rust. Get your tools and cleaning accessories ready and don't forget to check your brake fluid.

Make an appointment with your local mechanic to ensure your vehicle is road ready.



## Car maintenance: test your knowledge!

As spring arrives, it's not enough to simply put away your snow brush. It's important to conduct several maintenance checks to prepare your vehicle for the warmer weather. Answer these 10 questions to see if you're ready.

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. When is it safe to put your summer tires back on?
  - A. At the beginning of March
  - B. When the temperature stays above 44.6 F during the day
  - C. When all the snow has melted, and no more snow is in the forecast
2. Which fluids should you check in spring?
  - A. Engine oil and coolant
  - B. Windshield washer fluid and brake fluid
  - C. All fluids
3. When should you ideally wash your vehicle?
  - A. On a sunny day
  - B. On a cloudy day
  - C. On a windy day
4. When should you replace your wiper blades?

- A. Every 2 months
- B. 1 or 2 times a year
- C. Every 2 years

5. What's the impact of driving on under-inflated tires?
  - A. Increased fuel consumption and unstable driving
  - B. Premature wear on the steering system and suspension
  - C. No noticeable impact

### TRUE OR FALSE?

6. It's normal to smell a bad odour or hear a metallic pinging noise under the hood the first time you turn on your air conditioning in the spring.
7. Keeping shovels, bags of salt and other supplies in your trunk can increase your fuel consumption.
8. In addition to making your car shine, wax protects the paintwork.
9. A clogged air filter can affect not only your car's performance, but also your health.
10. If you've had no starting problems over the winter, there's no need to check your battery.



ANSWERS  
1. B  
2. C  
3. B  
4. B  
5. A  
6. False  
7. True  
8. True  
9. True  
10. False

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