

SPRING CAR CARE

2026 - *A SMOOTH RIDE*

INTO SPRING



A supplement of the
Journal Review



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CAR MAINTENANCE

For a smooth ride INTO SPRING!

Pro tips for washing your car windows

Your vehicle has made it through another winter, which means it's high time to give it a thorough clean! You may already have everything you need to refresh the interior and exterior, but have you thought about the windows? Here are a few tips for washing them effectively.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CLEANER

Start by choosing a product that cleans glass without leaving streaks. Many retailers carry cleaners designed specifically for car windows, which are generally a safe bet. If you want a budget-friendly and eco-conscious alternative, use a solution containing these ingredients:

- 1 litre of water
- 1/2 cup of vinegar
- 2 tablespoons of dish soap

If you want, you can add a drop or two of essential oil for a pleasant scent. You should avoid using ammonia-based cleaners on interior windows, as they can affect the air quality and damage tinted films.

WIPE THOROUGHLY

Using a microfibre cloth to clean your car windows is a great strategy. However, small streaks may remain on the surface. If necessary, use a chamois or high-quality paper towel (sometimes called a shop towel) to finish the job. Wipe in horizontal and vertical strokes rather than circular ones to prevent visible marks.

Consult your local professionals for more car maintenance tips.



Get ready for spring with a sparkling clean vehicle

It's not uncommon for a vehicle to be somewhat worse for wear after the long winter months. A little TLC can get your ride ready for the return of warmer weather and road-tripping season. Car Care Month takes place every April, the perfect time for you to refresh your knowledge of good car care practices.

DEEP CLEAN

Without a doubt, the chilly season is rough on cars. From slush, ice and mud to water and abrasive road treatments, dirt and debris can wind up in every nook and cranny by the time spring rolls around. Make the most of the milder temperatures to give your car's body-

work, rims, inner wheel wells and every crack and crevice a deep clean with high-quality car care products.

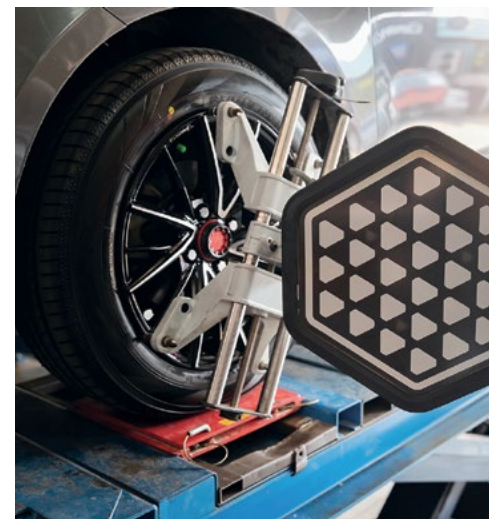
The interior of your car is no exception. Remove the floor mats and give the carpets a good vacuum to remove accumulated debris. Next, get rid of any salt and mud stains using a cloth and water and vinegar solution. This is also a good opportunity to put away the car accessories you won't be needing for a few months—put that car brush and snow shovel in storage.

PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION

Winter weather conditions can have

an impact on your car's performance. That's why it's wise to schedule a spring check-up with your local mechanic. They can check your car's fluid levels, filters, wheel alignment, brake performance, battery condition and more.

A clean, well-maintained car will give you peace of mind before you begin planning all those sunny adventures. This Car Care Month, make a point of visiting a mechanic near you.



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Pro tips for washing your car windows

Electric vehicles (EVs) are praised for their many advantages, including their powerful batteries, remarkable torque and improved comfort. They're also known for requiring less maintenance. But what does that actually mean? Do EVs really fare better throughout winter than their gas-powered counterparts? Here's what you need to know.

DEBUNKING A COMMON MYTH

Many people believe electric cars need little to no maintenance, but that's not entirely true. While EVs don't require oil changes and have significantly fewer moving parts than gas-powered vehicles (both of which help lower annual maintenance costs and reduce the risk of breakdowns), they still need regular inspections.

EV batteries are extremely heavy, which puts increased pressure on the car's suspension and tires. As a result, these components may wear out faster, especially after months of driving over potholes. In addition, the fluid used to cool the battery circulates through sealed lines that must stay intact. This is an important part of spring inspections.

CAUTION ABOVE ALL

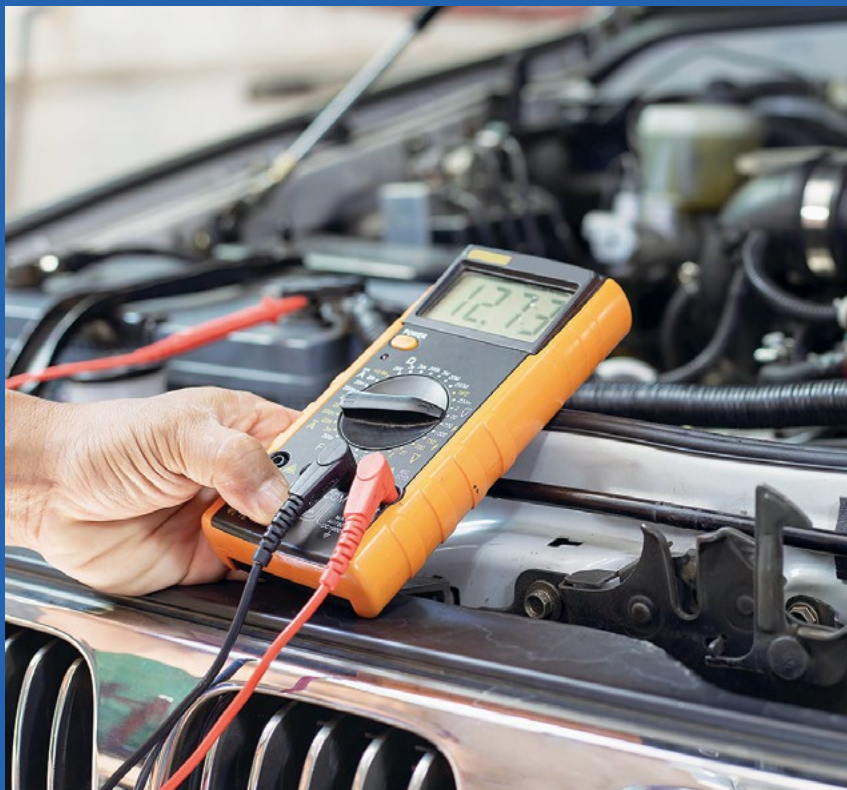
Even though owning an EV can save you a lot on annual maintenance, you still need to be attentive. The car's bodywork isn't immune to rust caused by road salt, so make sure you wash your EV frequently and avoid high-pressure jets. Brake pads, which engage less often due to regenerative



braking, can also corrode more in winter and deserve a close look.

In short, EVs do need spring maintenance. Visit a mechanic near you to ensure you stay safe on the road.

Do you know how to test your car battery? Winter may have taken its toll



During the cold season, extreme weather conditions and humidity can be hard on your car, especially the battery. Spring is just around the corner! Now is the perfect time to check whether your battery is still holding a proper charge. Not sure how to do it? Use this guide.

HOW TO DO IT

Open the hood of your car to access the battery. In some cars, the battery is in the trunk. Using a digital multimeter, connect the red cable to the positive (+) terminal and the black cable to the negative (-) terminal. This device is available at most auto parts retailers for around \$20.

A multimeter reading between 12.4 V and 12.6 V means your battery is in good condition. Keep the multimeter connected to the battery and start the engine. When idling or accelerating slightly (without engaging the clutch), the multimeter should

display between 13 V and 15 V, confirming that the charging circuit is working properly.

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

If you get results outside ideal ranges, you may need to take action. Watch for:

- Less than 12.1 V before starting. This means that the battery is discharged. Use a trickle charger or consult your mechanic.
- Less than 13 V when the engine is running. This could indicate a faulty charging circuit. Have it repaired to prevent a breakdown.
- More than 15 V when the engine is running. This is a sign that the voltage regulator isn't working correctly. Visit your mechanic immediately.

A healthy car battery is the key to a smooth ride into spring. If you're unsure or start having car trouble, call a local automotive professional.

Surface rust: Use the warmer spring weather to touch up your paintwork

As the warmer weather returns, have you noticed small brownish spots on the hood or roof of your car? These marks are probably surface rust, which often becomes more noticeable after your first spring wash. It's time to touch up your paintwork! Here's what you need to know.

KEY STEPS

Start by preparing the affected areas by sanding them with sandpaper or a wire brush. Then, wipe away all dust and apply an automotive rustproof primer. Once it dries, touch up the area with matching paint.

Are you wondering how to find the right shade of paint for your car? You can usually find a colour code in your owner's manual or on the sticker in-

side the driver's side door. Give this code to a car paint supplier to get an exact match.

BEST PRACTICES

Once you've finished touching up the paint, remember to wash your car every two weeks to remove dirt and debris that could damage the fresh paint. Waxing your car will also extend the life of your touch-ups.

If you notice that the rust has penetrated deeper into your car's bodywork and it's starting to crumble, consult a mechanic. You may need to invest in more extensive repairs.

Not sure which products to buy for your touch-ups? Visit a car detailing shop in your area for advice.



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Small steps to extend a car's life expectancy

Vehicles continue to get more expensive. The automotive experts at Kelley Blue Book indicate the average American car buyer paid \$50,080 for a new vehicle in September 2025, which was the first time the average price for a new car ever topped \$50,000. More drivers are looking for ways to push their current vehicles past the 200,000-mile mark to save money.

According to S&P Global Mobility, the average age of a vehicle on the road hit a record high of 12.8 years in 2025. Although major mechanical failures concern drivers of older vehicles, it's actually much smaller things that can affect vehicle longevity. There are small actions anyone can take to significantly extend a car's life.

- Use caution on cold starts. When a vehicle sits, oil settles at the bottom of the engine. To help combat damage

that can occur, drivers can wait about 30 seconds before shifting into gear, as this will allow the oil pump to circulate the lubricant to the upper valve train and help prevent extra wear on the engine. Modern fuel-injected engines warm up faster and more safely by being driven gently rather than sitting still, so it's not necessary to idle for a long while with the vehicle in the driveway, says Smart Motors Toyota. In fact, long idles actually can strip away oil.

- Treat fluids wisely. According to EngineeringCivil.org, checking and replacing fluids is cheaper than replacing hardware. Recent data suggests that consistent oil changes can add between 50,000 and 100,000 miles to an engine's lifespan. It's important to follow a vehicle's manual for time-based intervals for fluid replacement, rather than just going by mileage.

- Drive faster on occasion. Oil will never get hot enough to evaporate internal condensation for those who primarily drive short distances under 10 miles. Once every few weeks, it's important for drivers to drive at least 20 minutes at highway speeds to help get rid of contaminants.

- Drive smoothly on roads. Aggressive driving will not just burn more gas; such driving also creates heat, which can impact longevity. According to Kia, hard braking generates immense heat that can warp rotors and stress suspension bushings. Likewise, it's key to ease into acceleration. Rapid acceleration forces the transmission to downshift abruptly, increasing wear. Reports from The Zebra, an insurance shopping company, indicate that mindful driving can reduce mechanical strain by up to 30 percent.

- Fight corrosion. Rust can kill a car before the engine actually fails. People who live in areas where roads are treated with salt in the winter should use a winter car wash that includes an undercarriage spray. Auto Recycling World says road salt can eat through brake lines and fuel lines. In addition, applying a coat of wax twice a year can prevent UV rays and other damage to the clear coat, which protects the metal body from the elements.

- Address engine lights promptly. CarMD says addressing a "check engine" light immediately is 20 percent cheaper than waiting until the vehicle has a driveability issue. For example, ignoring a \$150 oxygen sensor can eventually destroy a \$1,500 catalytic converter. Small habits can help prolong the longevity of vehicles and help people save money.

Local NEWS

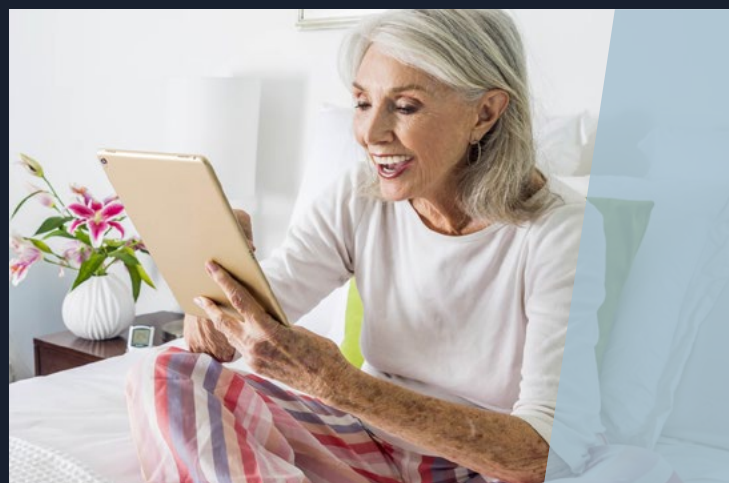


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