

15 minutes to better gas mileage



To improve mileage, first remove air cleaner, then squirt cleaner directly into carbureator.

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Auto mechanics often liken the carburetor in a car to the heart in a human. Both have the vital job of feeding their systems.

Hidden beneath the round air cleaner on top of a car's engine, the carburetor mixes the right proportion of fuel and air — usually 15 parts air to one part of gasoline — and passes the mixture on to the cylinders, where the spark plugs ignite it.

In some cases, a richer than 15-to-1 mixture is needed. For example, when the engine is cold or when you're accelerating to pass another car.

In these situations, the carburetor is designed to squirt a few extra drops of fuel as the gas pedal — accelerator — is depressed.

Sounds easy. What could go wrong?

Dirt, grime and hard coatings of varnish can reduce the effectiveness of the carburetor and cause a variety of problems — only the least of which is poor gasoline mileage.

An unclean carburetor may cause engine stalls, smoky exhaust, rough idle, and an engine that "stubbles"

on acceleration or "starves" at high speed.

Some of the problems are just annoying. Others are outright dangerous.

If your car has been driven less than 25,000 miles or is under two year old, chances are that the carburetor parts are not worn and a stalling engine or poor mileage is caused by dirt. In this case, all that's needed is about 15 minutes, a pair of pliers and a can of carburetor cleaner.

Working on a cold engine, use the pliers to remove the wing nut on the air cleaner. Sometimes hand turning will do the trick. Note where the vacuum hoses attach to the air cleaner.

Then, spray the carburetor cleaner into the throat of the carburetor onto the baffle plates. Let the solution penetrate and dissolve the dirt. Then spray again. Allow to dry. Then spray again, and replace the air cleaner, making sure to attach the vacuum hoses. Tighten down the wing nut.

Get into the car and ... ladies and gentlemen! **START YOUR ENGINES!**

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