

SUMMERIZE YOUR CAR

The summer heat can be downright damaging to your car's engine and peripheral systems

What you do about it now — before the temperatures rise — can make or break your chances of avoiding costly repairs.

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence has some advice for drivers this spring who are looking to prepare their vehicles for the summer heat. Remember that every automobile is different, but there are some basics to follow for ultimate protection.

- Read the owner's manual and follow the recommended service schedules.
- Obviously, any issue with your cooling system should be checked ahead of the heat. It could need a simple adjustment or perhaps an entire replacement. Either way, you'll want to have it checked now to be safe.
- Have a certified technician check any issues related to rough idling or stalling. The last thing you want to happen is to be stuck in the middle of the summer heat with a car that won't start.

- Flush and refill the cooling system according to your service manual's recommendations. Even if it's not time for a flush, always keep a close eye on the level, condition and concentration of the coolant.

- Have your belts and hoses checked by a qualified technician for tightness and overall quality.

- Change the oil and oil filter as specified in the owner's manual. Always remember to properly dispose of used oil when performing an oil change yourself.

- Replace worn wiper blades and keep plenty of washer solvent on hand to combat summer's dust and insects.

- Check the condition of tires, including the spare. Always check tire pressure when the tires are cold.

- Inspect all lights and bulbs; replace burned out bulbs.



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