



Car detailing tips for cold weather

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN
EO Media Group

For those who don't have a hot rod, there are still plenty of options for keeping your vehicle looking pristine, even through the winter months. Auto body and detailing shops in the area offer several maintenance and detailing services.

As the weather gets colder, car owners should watch out for corrosion that can result from de-icer on the roads. The material corrodes the underside of the car, or wherever the tires splash.

"That's probably some of the worst stuff you can get on your car," said Bob Brinkley, owner of Columbia Auto Body and Paint in Hermiston.

Brinkley suggested people be diligent about replacing the filters in their cars to avoid a musky smell, and to have their cars waxed before winter.

"If you have wax on the paint, it'll clean off," he said.

One thing that might surprise people, Brinkley said, is that they still need to wash their cars in the winter — especially the underside.

"Many washes don't do the underside of the car," Brinkley said.

He also suggested that during the rainy

A list of some auto body shops in the area below:

- Cascade Auto Repair, Hermiston: 541-567-8265
- Columbia Auto Body and Paint, Hermiston: 541-567-0248
- Hermiston Auto Body and Paint, Hermiston: 541-567-1564
- Ware's Auto Body, Hermiston: 541-567-8806
- Lapp's Auto Body Repair Inc., Pendleton: 541-276-8554
- Pendleton Autobody Refinishing, Pendleton: 541-276-9107

season, owners put Rain-X on their windshields.

"If it starts raining, it flakes right off — you barely even need to use your wipers."

Good windshield wipers are important for the winter too, he said.

Brinkley said he often repairs dents to the front and rear bumpers, corrosion from spray paint jobs, and clear coats peeling on cars.

"Paint is plastic," he said. "There's a base coat with plastic over the top of it."

Brinkley said a buff and wax on a small car costs about \$150 at his shop, and a general car detail costs about \$175.



Above: Cascade Auto Repair owner Tom Huxoll works on the rear axle of a truck.

Left: A Pontiac Le Mans waits to be serviced at Cascade Auto Repair.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

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