

## Is your car using too much oil?

Do you think your car may be using too much oil? One sign an engine is burning oil is blue smoke coming from the exhaust pipe.

There can be several reasons for this condition. The most common being worn valve guide seals. Here's why: The valves in a typical engine may open and close as often as 100,000 times per hour at highway speed.

The stem of the valve, sliding up and down in a guide, is fitted with a special seal designed to permit only a limited amount of oil to pass. (Some oil is necessary to lubrication, but too much creates oil burning problems.)

### Eventually these seals will Fall fertilization helps turf

A fall application of fertilizer on home lawns will keep the turf healthy and help it resist invasions of lawn moss.

A complete fertilizer with a high percentage of nitrogen, such as a 12-4-8 combination, is recommended for the fall application.

If other fertilizer mixtures are used, apply about one pound of actual nitrogen per one thousand square feet. The nitrogen will keep lawn grasses green without causing undue growth that would require mowing.

Lawns west of the Cascades need liming on a regular basis. Lime raises the soil pH, which makes nutrients in the soil more available to the lawn grass. In addition, lime gains calcium, an important nutrient for healthy lawn growth.

The basic rule of thumb for lime application on home lawns is 60 pounds per thousand square feet.

Where moss in the lawn is a

## Energy tips given

Q. I just returned from vacation and found a note in the mail from my chimney sweep. "Time to sweep your chimney again," it read. I had the chimney swept last September and I wonder if it really needs to be done again so soon.—G.S., Salem

A. While your chimney may not need to be cleaned, it's a good idea to inspect it yourself or have it inspected before the wood-burning season starts. If you inspect it yourself, use a mirror and flashlight to view the inside of the chimney from the ash cleanout (if there is one) or to look down the top of the chimney. Be careful you don't fall off the roof!

A quarter-inch layer of creosote on the flue walls is enough to start a fire in the chimney.

Q. I got some free shower-flow restrictors from my utility company. They were easy to install and haven't noticeably slowed down the water flow. Now I'd like to install flow restrictors on the bathroom and kitchen sinks. Are there special restrictors I can get for these?—A.E., Albany

A. Some plumbing stores carry low flow aerators that may reduce the water flow in your kitchen and bathroom sinks to as low as two gallons per minutes. They cost \$2 to \$5 each.

However, don't expect the dollar savings to be as high as savings from a shower-flow restrictor. That's because showers use much more hot water than hand washing, shaving and cooking. In Oregon, the average family of four would save \$10 to \$15 per year by installing low flow aerators on household faucets.

Before you buy low aerators, reduce your hot water flow by adjusting the flow control knob under the sink. This may be just as effective and is certainly cheaper.

If you decide to buy aerators, be sure to get the low flow type.

## Plan finances carefully

Too many people do their financial planning by default. They spend money as they have it and hope there is money left over to put into savings. Such people rarely reach their financial goals.

wear, or harden or otherwise fail. That's when oil burning begins.

Many of the conditions which cause an engine to burn oil prematurely are caused by vehicle neglect. One example of this is worn piston rings, which can wear out prematurely because of failure to change oil and filter regularly.

Once the rings become excessively worn, an expensive "ring job" is the only remedy. With proper maintenance, however, an engine normally should go well beyond the 100,000 mile mark without needing new piston rings.

It is essential to check the

problem, first rake out as much of it as possible. Then apply ammonium sulfate at ten pounds per 1,000 square feet. Apply the material either with a fertilizer spreader or by hand.

This chemical not only kills moss, but also fertilizes the lawn grass. Because ammonium sulfate can permanently stain concrete, keep it off sidewalks and driveways.

Copper sulfate of ferrous ammonium sulfate are chemicals that can be used in spray form to treat moss-choked lawns. For best results, dilute the chemicals according to label directions. Ferrous ammonium sulfate can also be used as a dry formulation. Apply it at the rate of ten pounds per 1,000 square feet.

We caution homeowners to remember that chemical treatment alone will not permanently rid a lawn of moss. A permanent solution lies in keeping the lawn healthy.

Regular aerators may not reduce the water flow much, if at all.

Q. We're going to build a new home and hope to heat it as much as possible with the sun, but haven't found "just the right" solar house plan. Would simply adding more windows on the south to a plan we like give us the solar heat we're hoping for?—D.M., Bend

A. In a word, no. There's more to solar heat than just adding extra south glass. You need to balance solar aperture areas, thermal storage, insulation and other measures to reduce heat loss.

If you're unable to find a solar house plan you like and decide to have a custom home designed, be sure the designer or architect you select has had experience with solar features.

We're sending you a copy of the Oregon State University fact sheet that lists a dozen or so ways to choose a designer. It also suggests ways to keep down costs, explains the difference between building designers and architects, and includes consideration that a professional should be able to point out.

Other readers who would like a copy may send their request to the Bulletin Mailing Office, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. There's no charge. Ask for Fact Sheet 295, "Selecting a Designer or Architect for your Energy-Efficient Home." Be sure to include your name and address.

OSU Extension Service energy agents and specialists will answer energy questions of interest to readers in this weekly column. Send your questions to Energy Answers, OSU, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. Include your name, and address, and phone number. The OSU Extension program is conducted in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Energy with funding from Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy.

To realistically set up an investment program, first carefully list your expenses. Then rework the list for future expenses which include some funds for intermediate and long-range goals.

engine oil regularly. If oil is overfull or smells like gasoline, it could mean it is becoming diluted with gasoline.

Thus, the oil becomes thin enough to work its way into the combustion chamber, eventually to burn and end up in the atmosphere as smoke.

If you have to pump the accelerator to keep the engine from stalling, you may be pumping raw gasoline into the crank case. This situation can be avoided by keeping the engine in tune.

Misfiring spark plugs can aggravate a situation because they permit raw, unburned gasoline to wash into the crank case. Not

### Wood safety workshop

A wood heat safety workshop will be offered Tuesday, November 7 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Warm Springs Senior Citizen Center.

OSU Energy Extension Agent Tom Wykes will offer this informational workshop. It is free! Cooperatively sponsored by the Warm Springs Housing Department and the Warm Springs Extension Service. The public is invited to attend!

### Lunch and Learn series to begin

Each week a different program will be presented in the "Lunch and Learn Series." Bring a sack lunch and learn as you share lunch. Everyone welcome! The series will be held in the 4-H Center from noon to 1 p.m. for five consecutive Thursdays beginning October 17.

### Tune up machines

Get ready for winter sewing projects by tuning up your sewing machine. Don't forget the following maintenance.

Cleaning—Clean the lint from the bobbin case and under the feed dogs after a garment is completed. Use the brush provided with your machine or a clean toothbrush or mascara brush. Keep the machine covered when not in use to prevent dust and dirt from accumulating.

Oiling—Oil after every eight to ten hours of sewing or after every garment is made. Use oil made specifically for sewing machine use. Other oils may cause problems. Check your sewing machine manuals for information on what parts to oil.

Some new machines do not require oiling. Others need to be oiled only in the bobbin case/hook mechanism. Older machines, especially, need to be oiled where two moving metal parts touch. Do not oil the machine's motor or belts. Run the machine to spread oil to all moving parts. If the machine

## Info on caulk, water heaters proffered

Q. I keep hearing that I ought to caulk around my windows and doors, but when I went to buy some caulk there were so many different kinds to choose from that I gave up and came home empty-handed. Can you help me decide what type of caulk to use?

A. It does get confusing. Let's see if this helps: There are four common types of caulking available in tubes for use in a caulking gun. You'll have to read the labels to determine which is which.

The least expensive is oil-based caulk. It lasts only a couple of years when used outdoors.

Latex and acrylic latex caulks should last from two to seven years. They're easy to apply, accept paint easily, give a smooth appearance and come in a variety of colors. They can be used inside or out. When you use latex and acrylic latex caulks outside, you should paint them.

Butyl caulk costs a little more than latex, but lasts longer. It also can be used inside or outside. It's more flexible than latex, so is ideal for sealing cracks between dissimilar materials such as brick and wood. Butyl caulk is not as easy to apply as latex and requires paint thinner for clean-up. It can be painted after it has cured.

Silicone caulk is the most expensive of the caulks that

only does this create hard starting, it also accelerates wear due to diluted engine oil.

Another factor in oil burning is a malfunctioning positive crank case ventilation (PCV) valve, which is intended to route oil vapors through the combustion chamber rather than permitting them to escape into the atmosphere.

If the PCV system is not in proper working order, it can be the cause of oil burning.

Remember: Excessive oil burning condition that gradually worsens and can affect other aspects of the engine. Like so many other car troubles early detection and correction are essential.

### Holiday baking class offered

Participants will make delicious holiday breads, pastries and other holiday treats! Classes meet on three consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. in the 4-H Center kitchen. Dates are November 5-19. Cost free!

Topics for discussion will be:

- November 7—Shopping for Children's Clothes.
- November 14—Buying furniture in Today's Market.
- November 21—Weasel Words (How to Escape the Language traps of advertising).

## Master gardener program offered

Interested in knowing more about home gardening? If so, you may be interested in knowing more about the Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program.

"The intent of the Master Gardener program is to give gardening enthusiasts a basic knowledge of horticulture through classroom teaching," says Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent. "After the training, the participants are asked to 'pay' for the instruction by helping Extension staff members answer gardening questions from the public."

The program consists of several hours of free classes. The amount of instruction will vary

depending on how the program is handled in each county. Topics covered in the classes include care of ornamental plants; garden, soil, lawn, nut and fruit tree management; and plant insect and disease control methods.

The classes will be held once each week beginning in mid-January and ending in mid-March. They will be taught by Extension agents and specialists, and members of the OSU horticulture department.

Master Gardener classes during 1986 will be conducted in Portland, Eugene, Salem, Medford, Grants Pass, Beaverton, Gresham, Redmond, Roseburg, Corvallis, Oregon City, LaGrande, Gold Beach and Baker.

Q. How safe are wood hot water heaters?

A. A properly installed and maintained wood stove water heater can be operated with no danger. Hundreds are now in routine use in all parts of Oregon. Remember that all pressurized wood stove water heating systems must be plumbed to provide a complete, unobstructed circulation loop. To protect against failure in the circulation loop, a pressure relief valve should be installed no further than six inches from the heat exchanger at the stove. Any valves in circulation loops should have the handles removed to prevent inadvertent shutoff.

You'll need a mixing valve between the hot water tank and the faucet to ensure that water coming out of the faucet will be no hotter than desired. Also, each storage tank, whether or not it is wired to provide backup electric water heating, should have a pressure temperature relief valve installed.

In the earlier column that you referred to, we mentioned a



**OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE**

**Clay Penhollow  
Mollie Driscoll**

## Turkey roasting tips given

Turkey should be roasted at an oven temperature of about 325 F. Do not use temperature lower than 300 F.

Place turkey on rack in shallow pan, breast side down which will produce juicier white meat. Roast halves and quarter skin side up.

Add water if necessary to prevent pan from over browning. You may put a tent of aluminum foil over turkey.

Turkey is done when the leg is loose from the body—or when the breast reaches 185 F. internal temperature.

If you want to save time and

labor and ensure safety, cook the turkey unstuffed and bake the stuffing in a shallow pan. Roasting time is shortened by about two minutes per pound for an unstuffed turkey. Baking time for the stuffing to reach 165 F. will take only one to two hours.

The roasting time for stuffed and unstuffed turkey must be continuous. Never interrupt heating by partly roasting the turkey one day and finishing it the next. These mistakes might make holiday turkey and stuffing unsafe to eat.

| Ready-To-Cook Weight | Approximate Roasting Guide<br>Approximate cooking time |
|----------------------|--|
| 6-8 lbs.             | 2-2½ hours   |
| 8-12 lbs.            | 2½-3 hours   |
| 12-16 lbs.           | 3-4 hours  |
| 16-20 lbs.           | 4-5 hours  |
| 20-24 lbs.           | 5-6 hours  |

Above cooking time has been shortened by two minutes per pound for unstuffed turkey.

If the turkey is baked in a covered roasting pan, it will be steamed rather than roasted and and it will cook faster—as much as one-fourth to one-half less time depending on size. Foil wrapped turkey has the same

effect and it can be cooked at a higher temperature—375 - 400 F. Open foil to allow browning during the last 15 minutes of cooking.

To roast frozen commercially stuffed turkeys and boneless turkey rolls, follow the directions on the package.

## After-school baking class scheduled

After school holiday baking will be offered Wednesdays, November 6, 13, 20, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the Warm Springs 4-H Center.

Mollie Driscoll will be instructing second through sixth graders to bake easy and nutritious goodies to snack on or

OSU Extension Service. Be sure to include your name and address.

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give as gifts. Class size is limited to ten so please call the office to sign your child up. 553-1161, ext. 238. There is no charge for the class. 6th graders are encouraged to attend, just come to class when your bus gets to Warm Springs.

