

# Spring...on the ROAD



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## TAKE A ROAD TRIP

*Before heading out, follow these tips to protect your car*

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

*Keeping your vehicle out of the heat and sunlight when it is not in use can help protect its longevity this spring and summer.*

**C**ome summertime, people anticipate spending plenty of time outdoors enjoying the warm weather and taking in the scenery. In addition to lazy days spent at the beach or around the pool, summer is a great season for road trips and other weekend getaways.

While many people look forward to the sunshine and heat of summer, extreme weather can be problematic for vehicles. The warmer season can take its toll on car paint and mechanical components can bake under the glaring sun and heat.

Furthermore, temperatures can quickly escalate inside the vehicle, potentially damaging upholstery and anything else inside.

### Avoid the sun as much as possible

Protecting your vehicle means keeping it out of the heat and sunlight when it is not in use. At home, park it inside of the garage or under a carport.

When shopping or running errands, attempt to find parking spaces in the shade or in a covered parking enclosure. Try to run the bulk of your errands during the early morning or evening hours when the sun will not be as glaring.

### Wax more often

Try to wax your car after every wash. A good layer of wax can protect a vehicle's paint from dirt, debris and the sun's rays.

## Essential items for roadside emergency kits

Motorists never know when problems with their vehicles may force them to pull off the road and onto the shoulder. Whether it's a flat tire, a sputtering engine or an empty gas tank, such circumstances are never welcome.

But such situations need not be so unbearable. Drivers who keep roadside emergency kits in their vehicles may find themselves getting back on the road more quickly the next time an unforeseen problem forces them to pull off the highway.

The following are some must-have items drivers should include in their roadside emergency kits.

- Roadside flares
- First-aid kit
- Jumper cables
- Warm blankets
- Flashlight
- Screwdrivers (flat-head and Phillips)
- Tire-pressure gauge
- Spare tire
- De-icing agent
- Nonperishable snacks
- Extra fluids (i.e., motor oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, windshield washer)
- Pliers
- Cell phone charger
- Important phone numbers (i.e., mechanic, auto insurance company)

Remember, premium waxes do not necessarily work any better than less expensive waxes, but the type of formulation (liquid, paste and spray) may affect application and how long each application lasts.

Consumer Reports found that paste waxes are easier to use than liquid waxes, though liquid waxes cleaned the best. Spray waxes were the easiest to use and left the fewest stains on plastic parts, but they didn't last as long as other waxes.

### Clean out your "stuff"

The heat can cause items inside vehicles to melt or explode. Depending on the product, a lot of staining or damage can occur if items melt or explode inside a car. Wax-based products can be particularly harmful.

Be wary of leaving lipstick, crayons, candles, lip balms, sunscreen, and lotions inside vehicles on hot days.

In addition, remove canned carbonated beverages and other canned items to reduce likelihood of spills.

### Use visors and car covers

If you cannot keep your vehicle parked in shady areas, do what you can to reduce direct heat and sunlight exposure. Covers can protect against UV rays and any sap or bird droppings that may fall on the vehicle.

Place reflective visors on the windshield to redirect sunlight so it doesn't turn the inside of the car into an oven. Keeping the windows open slightly also can keep the air in cars fresh.

While drivers are protecting their cars, they should also protect themselves, passengers and pets. Never leave a person or animal unattended in a hot car, even for a short time.

—Metro