

POTTER'S TIRE & AUTO MARKS 24 YEARS



Owner Paul Potter, at right, and his technicians work to provide customers same-day service at his auto shop in Florence.

Potter's Tire and Automotive in Florence is celebrating more than two decades of service in the community. Owner Paul Potter and his staff are proud to have reached their 24th anniversary this year.

Located at 4515 Highway 101, Potter's currently employs five full-time technicians. Being a six-bay shop and having technicians ready to work on customers' cars and trucks make for quick service and shorter turn around times.

When asked what his secret to success is, Potter responded, "I feel it is because we take pride in offering quality care in Florence and the surroundings areas. We are known through the community for standing behind our work."

The shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Potter takes pride in offering same-day service on most vehicles.

"Customers seem to appreciate that

service. With busy schedules, we understand our customers want to be back on the road quickly," Potter said.

Potter's Tire and Automotive also offers quality tires for most vehicles. If the exact tires needed are not in the showroom, Potter picks up the phone and has them in Florence usually within a day or two.

The shop also offers brake service, tune-ups, complete engine repair, safety checks, trailer hitches,



trailer brakes, radiator flushes, transmission service and more. Stop in or call 541-997-5049 for an appointment today.

Ready your ride for a warm weather road trip

Check the battery, tires and engine before hitting the open road

Few things exemplify the easygoing nature of spring and summer more than packing up the car and heading out on a road trip.

Hitting the open road with the top down, pulling up to the beach and enjoying a carefree day in the sun is a time-honored tradition for motorists across the country once the warmer weather arrives.

After all, who wants to worry about office workloads and catching up with household chores when there are more important things like barbecues to plan, and tan lines and travel plans to consider?

One thing all motorists need to think about before they put the top down and tackle the open road is how road-trip-ready their car is and how it's going to look and perform when it's finally time to push the pedal to the metal.

For the antsy motorist ready to leave work in the dust and hit the highway, consider the following tips to make sure your vehicle can have as good a trip as you do.

Wash your car

When hitting the beach for a weekend getaway, having a good-looking car is almost as important as looking good yourself. While a trip to the tanning salon won't do your car any good, a thorough car wash will.

Use two mitts to wash your car: one to wash the top and one for the gritty undercarriage so the big bits don't scratch the paint in more visible areas.

A quick wash removes not-so-friendly deposits from busy little birds, water spots from recreational areas, break dust that erodes the wheel surface, and all kinds of debris that dims your car's shine over time.

Be prepared for anything

Perhaps the biggest problem with flat tires is they always seem to come at the worst possible time. Before you duck out of the office early and start your weekend getaway, be sure you're prepared for whatever pitfalls the road might present.

Check the trunk and make sure you still have a spare tire and a jack ready to roll should they be needed.

Get a tune-up

Nothing can ruin a spring road trip more than a broken-down vehicle.

After a harsh or even a mild winter, your car deserves a tune-up, and you deserve a reliable car when you hit the road.

Make sure the battery has plenty of juice, the tires are properly inflated and that there's fresh oil in the engine. —Metro

Extend your car's longevity with these spring cleaning tips

The open road lies in front of millions of drivers who are ready to lower the windows and feel the warm breeze. Nothing curbs the excitement of a spring drive more than car issues that could have been avoided by simple maintenance to combat the lasting effects of driving through winter.

Many people consider spring the perfect time to clean their homes, but it is also important not to forget the vehicle. The average vehicle stays on the road nearly 11 years, according to a study by Polk Research.

This trend of consumers holding onto their vehicles longer than usual continues to grow.

To help protect what is typically the second largest investment for any consumer — your vehicle — here are tips to make sure you are ready for a successful spring travel season.

- As temperatures change, so can tire pressure. Proper tire inflation is essential for increased automotive safety, optimum driving performance and significant cost savings, including better fuel mileage.

Tires should be inflated to

the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations printed on the vehicle door placard or in the glove box, and should be checked at least monthly. Over-inflation can lead to premature or irregular tire wear and under-inflation reduces a vehicle's fuel efficiency.

- Keep hydrated: Many fluids require attention, including the engine oil, transmission fluid and power steering fluid. Spring is the perfect time to

make sure they are all clean and at the proper levels.

Additionally, to help ensure maximum engine life, change the oil and oil filter every 3,000 miles, or as directed by your owner's manual.

- Breathe free: Replacing a dirty air filter can increase a vehicle's life expectancy and fuel efficiency by reducing the strain on the engine, especially during warmer months.

Over the winter months, salt

and other impurities may build up in a vehicle's air filtration system, and replacing this air filter can improve acceleration time by around 6 to 11 percent, according to fueleconomy.gov.

- Many times, consumers postpone tire purchases, but

after enduring a harsh winter and looking ahead to the wet spring weather, it is not the time to have low tread on your tires. The lower the tread depth, the less traction you will have on wet roads, and the greater the distance you will need to stop. —BPT

Best-selling vehicles in the United States

Many auto manufacturers aspire to build customer loyalty. Once a customer is satisfied with the performance and durability of a vehicle, he or she is more likely to purchase or lease cars produced by that vehicle's manufacturer in the future.

Each year, automotive trend reporters categorize those vehicles that command the greatest share of the car-buying market. In 2015, certain vehicles moved up the list, while others maintained their hold on the top spots.

According to data through the third quarter of 2015 compiled by automakers and the automotive resource Good Car Bad Car, the Top 14 passenger cars of 2015 (excluding trucks and SUVs) are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Toyota Camry | 8. Nissan Versa |
| 2. Honda Accord | 9. Chevrolet Malibu |
| 3. Honda Civic | 10. Hyundai Sonata |
| 4. Toyota Corolla | 11. Subaru Outback |
| 5. Ford Fusion | 12. Nissan Sentra |
| 6. Nissan Altima | 13. Chevrolet Cruze |
| 7. Hyundai Elantra | 14. Kia Soul |

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