



## Ready Your Car For Spring, Summer Travel

(MS) — The return of warm weather marks the return of road trips for millions of motorists across the country. Whether going to the beach or heading off to parts unknown, hitting the open road with the windows down is a time-honored tradition for drivers of all ages.

But such road trips can prove disastrous if drivers don't take the right steps to prepare their vehicles for spring and summer travel. The following are a few ways motorists can ensure their car is ready to tackle the open road.

- **Tighten things up.** Loose parts, such as exhaust clamps, license plates, and interior trim panels, can create rattles and cause parts to get damaged or fall off. What's more, rattling sounds can be a noisy nuisance for drivers and passengers alike. Permatex Threadlockers can be used to keep the nuts and bolts from coming loose and save parts replacement costs. They also have a threadlocker for plastic fasteners, which vehicle manufacturers have grown to rely on more and more.
- **Wash your car.** A newly washed car not only looks good, but it's often much safer as well. Take your car to a car wash a few days before the trip and have the vehicle thoroughly cleaned. A thorough cleaning will remove dirt and grime from the vehicle's undercarriage, not to mention unsightly bird droppings and water spots or salt stains leftover from winter.
- **Fix foggy headlight lenses.** Many spring and summer road trippers travel at night so their days can be spent soaking up some sun at the beach or lake. Before heading off for parts unknown, motorists should inspect their headlight lenses to reduce

risk of accident. If the lenses are yellowed and foggy, that's likely because salt, ozone and road debris has dulled them to a point where vision can be impaired, placing drivers and their passengers at risk. But foggy lenses don't mandate an expensive headlight replacement. In fact, The Permatex Lens Renew Kit makes it easy to clean up and polish dull headlight lenses and restore them to like new condition, improving your car's lighting and driver visibility.

- **Check the battery.** Over time, battery terminals and cables will start to corrode. Such corrosion will eventually eat away at the battery's parts, creating a bad connection that sooner or later will require the battery be replaced. Check the battery before your trip and remember to clean the battery periodically as part of routine vehicle maintenance.
- **Address windshield nicks and bullseyes.** Nicks and chips in the windshields are a common problem regardless of the season. But such damage is most prevalent in the winter because of the extra debris that's on the road. These nicks and cracks need to get fixed as soon as possible to prevent them from spreading and resulting in the need for a windshield replacement. Oftentimes, motorists can address nicks and bullseyes in their own driveways in a matter of minutes. For example, the Permatex Bullseye Windshield Repair kit is tailor made for do-it-yourselfers, requiring no heating or mixing while ensuring each repair is virtually undetectable.

More information on easy repairs that you can do yourself can be found at [www.permatex.com](http://www.permatex.com).



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## Simple Ways To Improve Fuel Economy

The economy might be slowly recovering, but saving money is still foremost on the minds of many people. Men and women have looked to save money in a variety of ways, including at the gas pump. While there's little drivers can do to reduce the cost of a gallon of gas, there are ways they can make the gas last a little longer.

Improving fuel economy is nothing new to many motorists, but some might still be surprised at the myriad ways they can get more bang for their buck with regards to fuel costs.

- **DON'T BREAK THE LAW.**
- Obeying the speed limit might save your life, and it can also save you money. Typically, fuel economy decreases rapidly as a car reaches and surpasses 60 miles per hour. According to the U.S. Department of Safety, drivers can assume that each five miles per hour they drive over 60, they are paying an additional \$0.26 per gallon for gas.
- **EMPTY THE TRUNK.**
- Though it might be more convenient to keep your golf clubs in the trunk of your car, extra and unnecessary cargo in a vehicle's trunk drastically reduces fuel economy. An extra 100 pounds in a vehicle can reduce miles per gallon by as much as 2 percent, so keep a trunk free of items that aren't absolutely necessary.
- **STOP IDLING.**
- Many people let their car idle for several minutes on cold mornings. But today's newer vehicles don't really need to idle to warm up, and idling can



- **INFLATE THE TIRES.**
- Poorly inflated tires lower gas mileage and also pose a safety hazard. The DOE notes that properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by as much as 3 percent. Ideal tire pressure is different for each vehicle, so check your vehicle's owner's manual for recommended tire pressure. Some vehicle manufacturers also include the recommended tire pressure on the vehicle itself, be it in the driver's side door jamb or in the vehicle's glove compartment. Tire pressure printed on the tire's sidewall might not be the ideal tire inflation for your particular vehicle, so always adhere to the manufacturer's recommendation instead.
- **EMBRACE CRUISE CONTROL ON LONG DRIVES WITHOUT LOTS OF STOPPING AND STARTING.**
- Maintaining a constant speed, which a vehicle does when drivers utilize cruise control, can help save fuel, as it's less taxing on an engine to continue at one speed than it is to constantly switch back and forth between high and low speeds.

- **DRIVE THE CAR YOU NEED, NOT THE CAR YOU WANT.**
- Drivers who truly need to save money at the pump should consider the type of vehicle they're driving, and whether it's the car they need or the car they want. For instance, office workers who own a pickup truck but don't use it to haul items might want to consider a smaller vehicle that gets better gas mileage.
- Improving fuel efficiency is a great way for motorists to save money and reduce the expenses associated with vehicle ownership.



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