



AUTO SERVICE & CAR REPAIR

Maintenance Guide



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Maintenance Guide



This maintenance guide is designed for the motorist that drives their car an average of 12,000 to 15,000 miles a year in a city like Dallas or Fort Worth where the typical daily commute consists of some stop-and-go driving in heavy to moderate traffic situations. This maintenance schedule is designed to minimize your auto repair expenses while maintaining your year model 2000 or newer car, truck or SUV so that it will achieve a lifetime of over 150,000 “trouble free” miles.

You can compare this to your vehicle manufacturer’s maintenance guide but be aware that the vehicle manufacturer is concerned about your maintenance schedule as long as you are under warranty. When the warranty period expires the manufacturers hope that you will trade in your car for a new one as soon as possible. They are not interested in your car, truck or SUV lasting for 150,000 miles, they want to sell you a new car.

Oil Changes

Change your oil and oil filter every 5,000 miles if you use regular multi-viscosity motor oil.

Change your oil and filter every 6,000 to 7,500 miles if you use full synthetic or synthetic blend motor oil. Remember most vehicles produced since 2003 specify the use of synthetic or synthetic blend motor oils.

Tires and Suspension

Rotate and balance your tires every 10,000 miles (every other oil change) and have your front and rear brakes checked for wear when they are rotating the tires. If your mechanic advises you of uneven tire wear you should have the alignment checked and adjusted. A vibration in the steering wheel or in the seat is caused by an unbalanced tire and wheel. A cupped tire is caused by a bad strut or shock and you should have all four of them (shocks and struts) replaced at the same time. Always get your car aligned when you buy new tires. This will ensure that you will get the maximum life out of your tires. Have your car's alignment checked annually.

Fuel Injection System

If you buy gas wherever it is the cheapest you should have your fuel injectors cleaned at least once a year or every 15,000 miles. If you buy gas from one of the name brand providers like Texaco, Chevron, Mobil, Exxon, etc. . . you should have your fuel injectors cleaned every 30,000 miles. You should also replace your fuel filter and air filter at this time.

Radiator/Cooling System

Flush the cooling system (radiator) every 60,000 miles. Inspect the belts and hoses that are used in the cooling system and replace them at the 60,000-75,000 mile interval. A lot of people have the hoses changed when they do their cooling system flush to save money on the labor charges.

Transmission

Flush your automatic transmission fluid every 50,000 miles. Replace the transmission filter at the same time so that

everything that operates the transmission is new. Do this service religiously and you should never have to go to the transmission shop.

Power Steering

Flush your power steering system every 50,000 miles. This system is one of the most neglected systems on your car and is one of the most costly to fix, if it has to be repaired.

Brakes

You are probably going to need front brakes around 40,000 to 50,000 miles depending on the amount of stop and go driving you do. If your mechanic checks your brakes and tells you that they are 50-75% worn, don't worry. You still have plenty of brake pad life available. You don't need to replace them until they are 90% worn. Your back brakes should last twice as long as your front brakes if the brake system is working properly. Whenever you have a brake job done make sure that your mechanic flushes the entire brake system with new fluid.

Gas Mileage

You need to have a tune-up done at 50,000 – 60,000 miles. It should include the replacement of spark plugs, spark plug wires (if there are any), a fuel injection system cleaning, an air induction system cleaning, replacement of the fuel filter, the air filter and the cabin air filter (if equipped). You should also have the oxygen sensor(s) replaced if you have noticed that your gas mileage is decreasing.

Differential Services

If you pull a trailer, drive a 4 wheel drive and go off road, or drive through high water you need to have the differential and transfer case serviced on you light truck or SUV every 30,000 miles at the minimum. Be sure your mechanic uses the right replacement oil and puts in the additives if you have a locking differential.

Warning Lights

A lot of people panic when the yellow Check Engine light comes on. Don't panic if any warning light comes on and it is yellow in color. These warning lights are simply indicating that one of the car's computers has received a signal that a condition exists that is beyond the tolerances set by the vehicle manufacturer and that the vehicle should be brought in for service as soon as possible.

If a warning light comes on that is red in color you should pull over, stop the car and shut off the motor immediately. A red warning light indicates that damage may occur to the car or the driver if you continue to operate the vehicle. Contact your repair center and make arrangements to have the car towed in immediately.

150,000 mile Maintenance Schedule

