

### Cooling system care: Good trip insurance

A dream vacation trip can become a nightmare when mechanical trouble strikes. Overheating, one of the most common causes of breakdowns on the highway, seldom occurs when basic preventive measures are taken.

In a national survey, automobile mechanics listed drive belts and hoses as being among the most neglected parts of their customer's cars. Because these accounts for the majority of overheating problems, they should be replaced immediately after three to four years of use.

Another survey found that nearly half of all respondents had never replaced the drive belts on their cars. Among those who had, the majority did so only when the belts had broken or were near the point of failure.

Embarking on a summer trip without a thorough inspection of these and other components of the cooling system may be costing trouble, says Car Care Council.

Automobile engines generate a tremendous amount of heat, enough to warp a six-foot beam in two minutes; it's also enough to cause a "melt-down" of the engine if the cooling system breaks down.

In newer, more fuel-efficient cars, with their emission controls, smaller radiators, air conditioning and crowded engine compartments, under-the-hood temperatures may reach 200 degrees F. This is tough duty for rubber parts.

Car Care Council lists five warning signs of cooling system trouble:

1) Anti-freeze/coolant needs "topping off" more frequently than 700. When adding anti-freeze/coolant, the proportions should be 50 percent to 70 percent anti-freeze/coolant and 50 percent to 30 percent water. Do not use permanent anti-freeze as it lowers the coolant's viscosity.

2) There are signs of seepage at hose connections or on the radiator.

3) A belt squeaks as the engine is accelerated in neutral, indicating a loose belt.

4) The engine "stretches" (sometimes to run for a few seconds after the ignition has been turned off).

5) The engine knocks or "pings" under load.

If you've noticed any of these symptoms, have the car checked before starting out on a trip.

The last two symptoms also may signify an improper grade of fuel or need for a tune-up.

To help ensure a trouble-free vacation, suggests the Council, have the cooling system serviced if it has not been done in the past year.

For more information on cooling system maintenance, write for the 16-page illustrated booklet, "UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAR'S COOLING SYSTEM."

Send \$10 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Automotive Cooling System Institute, 222 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

### Older cars need special cleaning

When it comes to automobiles that are no longer brand new, they can usually be kept in one of two basic categories. The "haves" and the "have nots."

The "haves" represent those older automobiles that turn your head when they drive down the street. Although not all of these autos are what you would consider a classic, they have one feature in common—a shiny showroom-like finish that gives them an appearance that is timeless.

Unfortunately for the "have nos," their story is not quite as cheerful. These are the automobiles that wear the signs of their age as a mark of humiliation, instead of respect.

Scratches, weathered paint, traffic film and stains which have accumulated on the car's finish over the years are the visible signs that forebode an early retirement to the local junkyard.

Don't give up hope!

If you are among the car owners that find their autos in the "have not" category, all hope is not necessarily lost. With a little bit of effort, it is quite possible that you can start the trade turning your automobile's way in no time.

It's a good bet that it has been some time since you've received the kind of results you desire from your usual wash and wax job.

The reason for this is that, although most of the products utilized for these tasks are designed to clean dirt off the surface of the car's finish, they don't remove the abrasive properties

### special cleaning

necessary to remove scratches and other detractors from the overall look.

Two products that should be in every "have not" car care arsenal are a quality polishing compound and a good rubbing compound such as the products recently introduced by Borden's Rain Dance™ line, which have been found to deliver effective results.

For deeper cleaning action

Polishing compounds, which are formulated with moderately strong abrasives, are designed to provide a deeper cleaning action than wash or wax products.

Apply the polishing compound to the car's finish in back-and-forth strokes with a damp cloth. This technique should remove scratches, weathered paint and stains quite readily.

If the detractors will remain, it's time to break out a heavy duty rubbing compound. These products contain much stronger abrasives than polishing compounds and should be applied with considerable care.

In general, when working with a rubbing compound, only a small amount applied with a damp cloth is needed to get rid of a stain. Scratches are best removed when you rub in the compound lightly in the same direction as the mark.

Once you've cleaned away the signs of age from your car's finish, your car has the potential of being a "have." A fine wax job with a long-lasting product such as Rain Dance™ brand will protect your labor and provide the finishing touch that will make heads turn.


### Time to "Spring Clean" Your Car!

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### Gardening: An occupation for just about all seasons

From flowers to vegetables

For gardeners who think there may be a time limit on the gardening season, the National Gardening Association experts have ideas on how to continue gardening, despite colder temperatures.

The National Gardening Association, based in Burlington, Vermont, has researched a coldframe technique "Green-box" to help start extra-early spring crops, and extend gardens and lawns through fall and winter.

"NGA experts have developed a plan for this Green-box" with details on the construction and use of the coldframe. This special Green-box" can extend either the beginning and end of the gardening season and, as well, serve as summer's heat as a food dryer," said Charles Scott, president of the organization, 250,000 member-supported National Gardening Association.

"We know gardeners need the best help and information to keep crops growing, so we compiled months of research to develop our Green-box" coldframe.

"Besides extending the growing season, this special Green-box" can help preserve fruits and vegetables for winter," Scott continued.

"Our NGA Green-box" plan shows gardeners how to construct the coldframe

and use it in gardens in many states. In addition, the Green-box" can serve to dehydrate garden produce as it converts early into a food dehydrator in summer, so it's useful every month of the year."

A special feature in National Gardening magazine explains how to use the coldframe as a food dryer. First, cover the soil in the Green-box" and the interior front and back walls with black plastic. Then, replace sides with two pieces of plywood into which holes are drilled at ground level to provide air circulation.

Inside the Green-box", window screens can be inserted supported on either clip or plastic posts to use as food drying trays. When the sunlight heats the air, fresh air is pulled in through the holes at ground level. The air heats and flows out through the vented Green-box" lid.

"We found the Green-box" to be suitable to screen gardeners," said Scott.

For a sample copy of the National Gardening magazine featuring the Green-box" and the special plan, send \$1 to cover postage and handling to National Gardening, 180 AJ Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401.



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