



Jack and David Bulko of AutoAid

Dead Battery—Maybe Not

One of the most common reasons a car won't start is a dead battery. At least it acts dead. The true problem is often corrosion on the battery terminal, a condition in nearly 17% of vehicles. This interferes with electrical current flow, creating symptoms of a weak or dead battery.

In this situation, a boost, even from a strong battery may not get you started. At best, a jumpstart is nothing more than a short-term fix. A repeat performance might be avoided with accurate diagnosis and repair. Other culprits may be a faulty starter or a slipping drive belt.

April is **National Car Care Month**. Be sure to bring your car in to AutoAid for a Courtesy Check-up so we can identify problems like these that could compromise the dependability and safety of your vehicle.

Under the Hood

Mechanics' Moment

As a car owner it's crucial to take your car maintenance seriously. Too often we see that unnecessary expenses are generated due to lack of knowledge or attention. If owners neglect the maintenance of their vehicles it may result in the need for major repairs or the necessity to invest in a new vehicle. To help our customers, we've prepared a few tips on the most important maintenance tasks everyone should perform:

- **Tip #1: Regular Fluids Check.** Oil, transmission fluid and engine coolant—it goes without saying that these are crucial maintenance issues that shouldn't be taken lightly. If you find the levels are too low, add fluid immediately. This can prevent engine collapse and save you significant repair costs.
- **Tip #2: Regular Oil Changes.** To keep your car in great shape make sure that you get regular oil changes—every 3,000 miles.
- **Tip #3: Avoid the Tanker.** If you happen to see a gasoline tanker filling the tanks at your local gas station,

come back another day or go to a different station. As the station's underground tanks are filled, turbulence can stir up sediment. Sediment in your gas can clog fuel filters and fuel injectors, causing poor performance and possibly necessitating repairs.

- **Tip #4: Rotate Your Tires.** Rotating your tires helps distribute tire wear evenly and ensures that you'll get the maximum road life out of them. The first rotation is especially important. In general, rotate your tires every 6,000 to 7,500 miles.

You should do all you can to preserve your vehicle and to save money as well. Proper maintenance is important to the life of your car, so be sure to use these tips. There are many other great maintenance tips we can share as well, just stop by or make an appointment. We want to keep you safe on the road.

Jack and David

EcoDriving Tips: Save Money at the Pump

At AutoAid & Rescue, we're committed to helping our customers extend the life of their cars, trucks and vans, so we've included a few tips that really can make a difference.

If you have tips to share, please email them to us and we'll publish them in *Under the Hood*: ooka52@aol.com and dbulko@aol.com.

1. Is your engine tuned up? Regular vehicle maintenance improves gas mileage by an average of 4.1%.
2. Replace air filters regularly. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%.
3. Replace spark plugs regularly. A dirty spark plug causes misfiring which wastes fuel, up to two miles per

gallon.

4. Replace oil regularly. Dirty or substandard oil can reduce fuel economy by one mile per gallon.
5. Check your vehicle gas cap. About 17% of all vehicles on the road have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or missing, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize each year.
6. Avoid excessive idling. Idling gets 0 miles per gallon. Letting a vehicle warm up for one or two minutes is enough.



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