

Be Car Care Aware[®]

Six Ways You Could Be Killing Your Car

(NAPSA)—Owning a car can be a dream or a nightmare depending on how well you take care of your vehicle. Here are six things that many motorists do that can harm their cars and their wallets.

1. Ignoring the check engine light. Ignoring an illuminated check engine light can result in serious engine trouble and costly repairs. At the very least, this warning light could alert you to an engine problem that is negatively impacting fuel economy.

2. Failing to change fluids and filters. Many fluids are required for operating and protecting vehicle systems and components. Checking fluid levels regularly, along with the filters, helps ensure that your vehicle runs dependably and extends its vehicle life.

3. Neglecting your tires. Your vehicle's tires should be checked frequently for inflation and tread depth. Underinflated tires can wear out more quickly and need to be replaced sooner, plus they can negatively affect safety, gas mileage and performance.

4. Not following a service schedule. Because many car parts and components wear out or become damaged over time, vehicles need to be routinely serviced to perform optimally. Routine inspections and timely repairs will help keep your car running efficiently and help you avoid more expensive repairs down the road.

5. Keeping a dirty car. Allowing your car to go too long without a wash leads to buildup of damaging chemicals and dirt, increases the potential for rust from road salt and interferes with proper visibility needed for safe driving.

6. Being a severe driver. Whether it's stop-and-go traffic, extreme weather, rough roads or heavy loads, it can



Be good to your car and it will be good to you.

sometimes be difficult to limit severe driving conditions. However, you can drive smart and improve fuel economy by observing the speed limit; avoiding aggressive driving, including quick starts and stops; not hauling unnecessary items; and keeping your vehicle properly tuned.

“Because auto care isn’t always a top priority for car owners, they might not realize they are doing things that adversely affect the performance, safety and value of their car,” said Rich White, executive director of the nonprofit Car Care Council. “Routine maintenance can go a long way toward saving money, avoiding headaches and protecting your vehicle investment.”

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the “Be Car Care Aware” consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For the latest car care news, visit the Council’s online media room at <http://media.carcare.org>. To order a free copy of the popular “Car Care Guide,” visit the Council’s consumer education website at www.carcare.org.