

Car Care Corner

Price Versus Value—When Premium Auto Products Are Worth The Extra Cost

(NAPSA)—To keep your car on the road to safety and savings, it's a good idea to pay attention to what goes into and onto the vehicle. Sometimes it pays to upgrade to a premium automotive product. As the experts at the Car Care Council put it, "Small steps that motorists take today can go a long way toward improving the safety and reliability of their vehicles."

Here are a few tips on common automotive product categories to help you make informed decisions.

Gasoline—Engines are designed to use a particular grade/octane of gasoline. There's no substantial benefit to using an octane higher than recommended by the manufacturer. The bottom line is that if you use higher octane against manufacturer's recommendations, you could be paying up to 40 cents more a gallon, which could add up to over \$300 a year in extra expenses with no added benefits.

Wiper blades—There is a noticeable performance difference in low-cost wiper blades versus those specifically designed for rough weather conditions. Premium wiper blades are significantly sturdier and more durable than low-priced blades. The bottom line is that the upgrade will cost you less in the long run if you live in a more extreme (rainy or snowy) climate.

Motor oil—There have been substantial improvements in lubrication technology over the past few years. The longer oil life of high-performance synthetic motor oil allows for extended oil drains, which saves time and money and



The right oil and oil filter can help your car go far on less.

reduces the effect on the environment. The bottom line is that some high-performance synthetic oils such as Royal Purple have been reported to improve mileage by as much as 3 percent, which adds up over the course of a year.

Oil filters—Inexpensive filters are typically made with the 3,000-mile interval in mind because they use low-quality paper media that deteriorate rapidly at 3,000 miles. The new generation of high-performance premium oil filters allows for extended oil drain intervals. For example, Royal Purple uses a proprietary long-life, microglass media that provides protection for 12,000 miles. It also provides an increased level of protection due to the density of the filtration. The bottom line is that the more expensive filter pays off if you plan to extend oil drain intervals or live in extremely dusty or cold-weather climates.

You can find more car-care tips and products at www.royalpurple.com.