

Car Care Corner

Regular Checkups Are Good For Your Car's Health

(NAPSA)—Today's family automobile is a sophisticated, computer-controlled mechanical marvel that requires less care and is often more dependable than its predecessors.

But to keep your car running smoothly, basic preventive maintenance is key to reliable performance—and it can mean savings down the road.

The world's largest provider of automotive aftermarket parts—NAPA—recommends a five-point preventive maintenance program to keep your car running smoothly:

- **Oil Change**—Unless your driving is mostly highway miles, today's engines will run better and last longer with clean oil every 3,000 miles or three months, including a filter change. A \$30 oil change can save you from costly engine repairs later.

- **Brakes**—An unusual noise or a gentle tug on the steering wheel when stopping are common warning signs that it's time to check the brakes. A good rule of thumb is to check the brakes at the 6,000- to 7,500-mile mark when tires should be rotated.

- **Coolant System**—Thoroughly flush coolant systems and replace with the appropriate antifreeze at least every two years to minimize metal deterioration and to keep the system flowing. And be sure to use the correct water to coolant mix. Check the coolant reservoir monthly (and the windshield washer reservoir, too) and top off as needed.

- **Battery**—As part of your car's regular maintenance, ask your technician to make sure the battery cover is in place and the battery is firmly anchored. Most important, clean the battery of corrosion, especially the electrical posts.



Preventive maintenance is key to your car's performance—and it can mean savings down the road.

- **Check-Engine Light**—An illuminated check-engine light on your dashboard is your car's early warning system that something is wrong. It could be as simple as a loose gas cap or spark plug wire, or a serious forewarning of a mechanical failure. Take your car to an ASE-certified technician as soon as possible to diagnose and fix the problem.

ASE (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence) is a 30-year-old not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. Call 1-800-LET-NAPA for an ASE-Certified technician nearest you.

NAPA AUTO PARTS maintains the world's largest inventory of aftermarket parts, accessories, tools and equipment offered through more than 6,000 stores and over 12,000 NAPA AutoCare Centers nationwide.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.napaonline.com.