

# Car Care Corner

## The Value Of Preventive Maintenance

by Pat Goss

(NAPSA)—If you want to save money down the road, take care of your auto now. It is estimated that every preventive maintenance dollar spent today can potentially save eight dollars in future repairs. Because cars of today are lasting longer and people are curbing their spending in a tight economy, it's important to make sure your car stays in top form by investing in preventive maintenance.

- **Change Motor Oil** (Check your owner's manual for specific manufacturer recommendations. Most recommend every three months or 3,000 miles)—Motor oil left in an engine too long can lead to deposit and sludge build-up in your engine, reducing your vehicle's performance and ultimately engine life. So, changing your oil regularly is important. If you haven't had regular oil changes in the past, or if you want to ensure your engine stays clean, there are new types of oil formulated to help keep engines cleaner, longer. For example, ExxonMobil makes a class of synthetic blend motor oils, called Mobil Drive Clean Plus, which help prevent deposit formation, safely clean away sludge, and restore engine performance.

- **Rotate Tires** (every 7,500 miles or every other oil change)—Tire rotation makes all four tires wear more evenly, leading to longer life. Regular rotation may double tire life.

- **Change Fuel Filter** (yearly or as needed)—Fuel filters tend to largely be overlooked leading to poor performance and possible damage to fuel system components.

- **Check/Service Battery** (yearly or as needed)—Take the bat-



**Mechanics estimate every dollar spent in preventive maintenance saves about eight dollars down the road.**

tery out of a car and every part is rendered useless. Without a battery even the radio is mute. Clean, tight battery cable connections are vital to prevent costly and inconvenient electrical system malfunctions.

- **Check/Service Air Conditioning** (every spring)—As air conditioning is used some refrigerant is lost. Over time the lost refrigerant will be replaced with air and moisture—both of which are harmful to air conditioner parts. Yearly checks catch problems early to help prevent big repair bills.

For more information visit [www.exxonmobil.com](http://www.exxonmobil.com).

- *Mr. Goss is a well-known and respected expert on car care and maintenance. Best-known for his role as co-host of the weekly television series "MotorWeek," his common sense approach has helped millions of car owners understand and have confidence in their cars.*