

Money-wasting Car Myths

Sometimes people have a tendency to overdo it where their cars are concerned, and oftentimes if enough people say something about it, it becomes as good as fact. Yet there are a number of myths out there concerning car care and maintenance that simply cost the everyday guy or gal more money than they need spend annually on vehicle upkeep.

Myth #1: Your Car Needs an Oil Change Every 3,000 Miles

The 3,000 mile rule came about in the 1970s, but since then, engines are made to operate with much more finesse and control. Oil technology, too, was still being developed, so the 3,000 mile rule was a good one. Nowadays, however, with better engines and oils, that recommendation is outdated. Some estimates suggest that 7,500 miles is a better projection, especially since synthetic oils now support up to 15,000 miles. Having to change your oil less frequently can certainly save you both time and money.

If this is one myth you're hesitant to trust, do what all smart car owners do: read your car's manual for the specific maintenance schedule.

Myth #2: Premium-grade Fuel Improves Performance

There's no reason someone with a Honda Civic needs to fill up with premium-grade, and there's surprisingly little why luxury car owners need do it either, provided their car is built to run on regular-grade. Yet the myth persists that the higher the grade, the better performance you get from your vehicle, but that's simply not true. Premium fuel will, in usage, allow a car to

accelerate from zero to 60 mph about a split second faster – but that’s about it. Does that really seem worth the extra 20 cents to you for every gallon you pump over the course of a year?

Myth #3: Warming Your Engine During Winter Reduces Cold Weather Wear

The idea behind this myth is that unless you warm your engine before driving it through cold, winter weather, various engine parts won’t be able to perform at full capacity and you’ll end up doing damage to them. And actually, way back when (or 30 or so years ago), this was true and it was a good idea to warm up the vehicle before driving off to work. But most every newer, modern car with fuel-injected engines can stand to be driven as soon as it’s started, provided you don’t immediately floor it (in fact, actually driving the car somewhere is better than just letting it idle).

Myth #4: Inflate Tires to the PSI on the Tire

It seems logical, doesn’t it? The optimum pressure listed on the actual tire would be the very best indication of how much you should inflate it. But not so. The pounds per square inch (PSI) figure on the actual tire itself is the maximum amount of pressure the tire is designed to hold. The actual automaker’s suggestion is usually along the door jam (but sometimes in the glove compartment as well). Keeping your tires at their best pressure effects not only handling and ride comfort, but braking and fuel efficiency. Getting good mileage is helpful – but having reliable braking power is *essential* in keeping car costs down.

Author Bio:

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