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Pothole Dangers - Drivers Beware

Lauren Fix Former Contributor

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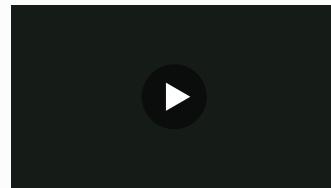
With the very cold weather, we've experienced this season mixed with a few warm days have really taken a toll on our roadway. Some of the potholes on the road are like craters on the moon, while others are getting worse and larger everyday traffic drives right through them. As the potholes become larger with the damage you're your vehicle becomes a safety risk and can take a chunk out of your wallet. Pothole damage costs U.S. drivers \$3 billion per year, according to a new study from the AAA auto club.

If you are driving through a pothole every day on your daily commute. Some of the more common damage is a flat tire or damage to your tires, bent or damaged rims, suspension damage, steering damage and even damage to the body of the car.

Potholes can even knock your car out of alignment so it will affect the way the tires wear and can lead to replacing tires before earlier than expected.

What if the road has large potholes?

Be on pothole patrol, looking ahead while driving and noting where the craters are will help you avoid the pits in the roads. On heavier traveled roads, the constant traffic kicks up pavement and existing potholes can grow larger and cause even



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A car passes potholes in a road near Peterborough in Cambridgeshire. (Photo by Joe Giddens/PA Images... [+])

What can you do beyond attempting to avoid these nasty craters?

- The first line of pothole defense is proper tire inflation. Low tire pressure can cause bulges or blisters on the sidewalls of the tires and even dent the wheel. These problems will be visible and should be checked out as soon as possible as tires are the critical connection between your car and the road in all sorts of driving conditions.
- Before you make an evasive maneuver, be aware of traffic around you. Use your mirrors and consider whether to straddle the hole or go around it. Don't have an accident just to avoid a pothole.
- If a pothole can't be avoided, keep your steering wheel straight. Slow down and drive carefully through the pothole. Allow the tire to roll through the pothole. Traveling at full speed or slamming on the brakes can cause major damage leaving you possibly on the side of the road.



Worst case scenario, if you have recently hit a pothole and heard the scary THUMP; it's time to see an ASE certified technician to inspect your suspension, undercarriage and tires for damage.

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Lauren Fix, The Car Coach®, is a nationally recognized automotive expert, analyst, journalist, author,... [Read More](#)

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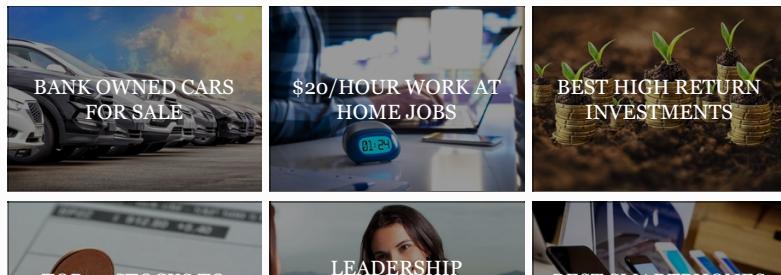
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