

FALL IS AROUND THE CORNER!



With summer fading quickly and fall right around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about getting your vehicle ready for the colder months ahead. Please see below for a vehicle maintenance list to show how a little preparation can prevent a costly repair bill and ensure your vehicle is ready for whatever Fall throws at it.

Lights

Driving with inoperable headlights is a hazard. Not only does it reduce your ability to see clearly at night, but it also reduces your vehicle's visibility to others on the road. It's easy to check all your lights are operating correctly. Checking your lights can greatly reduce your risk of an accident – particularly during fall when the daylight hours become shorter. Grabbing a friend to help you check your lights will make the job much easier and quicker too.

Windshield Wiper Blades

It's easy to forget about the condition of your wiper blades. But if they're not performing as they should, it can severely limit your visibility in wet driving conditions. You'll know if your wiper blades need replacing as they won't clear your windshield as well as they should. Another sign your wiper blades need replacing is if they make excessive noise as they drag across the windshield, or the wiper action isn't as smooth as usual. You should also run your finger along the edge of the rubber wiper blade, checking for damage, cracks, or splits. If the rubber is worn or showing any sign of defect they will need to be replaced.

Battery

The battery in your vehicle has the responsibility of providing your vehicle with the energy needed to start. It forms one part of a vehicle's electrical system, but it is the part that is most likely to fail. As the weather becomes colder, a vehicle requires more energy to start. This puts a bigger drain on the battery. If a battery is old or worn out, it may not provide the extra voltage your vehicle needs. At Tuffy, we always recommend having a professional inspect your battery for any corrosion, loose connector cables, leakage, and overall battery life. If you're in a bind, you can get a rough idea of your battery's health by turning on your lights before you start your vehicle.

- If the lights dim as the vehicle is cranking over, the alternator is likely not producing enough charge.
- If the lights get brighter when the engine is revved, the alternator is producing current, but not enough at idle to keep the battery charged.
- If the lights remain at normal brightness as the engine is started and revved, your electrical system is likely fine.

Tires

Tires are the only contact between your vehicle and the road. How well your vehicle accelerates, turns, and stops are relative to the condition of your tire. When it rains, it diminishes a tire's performance, and even more if the tread is worn. It's easy to check the health of your tires yourself, and it's a good habit to get into.

Continued on next page

A visual inspection of the tire tread will give you some clues as to how your tire is performing and how it's wearing. Signs of uneven tread wear such as the center of the tread being worn, but not the edges, or the other way around, will give you an indication that your tire pressure is incorrect. Bald patches or unusual wear patterns can indicate tires that are out of alignment, balance, or a problem with the vehicle's suspension. It's a good time to also check for cuts, bulges, and cracks on the tire.

Temperature changes can affect tire pressure by as much as 2 psi for every 10 degrees. A tire that has lower than optimal operating pressure will be less responsive to steering and braking, wear quicker, and be at greater risk of a blowout. The optimal tire pressure for a vehicle is usually found on a sticker in a vehicle's door jamb or the owner's manual.

Finally, the tread depth should also be inspected. Tires have built-in tread wear indicators in between the grooves on the tread. When two or three of these are flush or level with the rest of the tread on the tire, it's due to be replaced.

Brakes

The worst time to find out your brakes need to be repaired is when you need to stop in a hurry. During fall, standing water on the road and driving through puddles increase the distance a vehicle needs to stop. If your brake pads are due for replacement, the effectiveness of your brakes can be dramatically reduced, increasing the risk of an accident.

At Tuffy, brake inspections are FREE! Our trained technicians will check if the brake fluid needs changing, how your brake pads are wearing, if the rotors are worn or warped and wearing evenly, and inspect the calipers. This will ensure you have optimal stopping power on wet roads heading into fall.

Air Conditioner

It might seem strange to get your air conditioner inspected as the weather starts to cool, but if your AC system isn't up to par, your vehicle's heater and windshield defroster will struggle. Heater issues can be caused by a lot of different parts failing such as a malfunctioning blower motor, clogged heater core, or a blown fuse. Get it checked before the temperature starts to drop and enjoy peace of mind knowing it will work perfectly when you need it.

Preparing Your Vehicle For The Fall

This makes up a pretty comprehensive vehicle maintenance checklist. Having your trained Tuffy technician give your vehicle a thorough inspection can prevent most mechanical issues before they start and allow you to make it through the Fall season worry-free.

***From your local Tuffy Tire & Auto Service Center,
be safe and enjoy the upcoming Fall season!***

