

# AUTOMOTIVE

**A SPECIAL ONLINE ISSUE**



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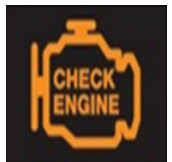
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## How To Protect Your Car From Sun Damage

People know to protect their skin and eyes from the sun. Sun exposure can be dangerous for the body, but the sun's rays also can damage automobiles.

Leaving a vehicle exposed to sunlight for extended periods of time increases the risk of damage to its interior and exterior. It's important that car and truck owners recognize this so they can mitigate the potential problems sun and heat may cause. Testing conducted at the State Farm® Vehicle Research Facility found interior vehicle air temperatures have been recorded well in excess of 145 F. Interior surfaces exposed to direct sunlight have been recorded at temperatures in excess of 195 F.

The automotive repair service Fix Auto says the sun's ultraviolet rays can cause the vehicle's paint to peel and fade over time. UV rays break down the molecules in the paint and make it appear dull. The company says red paint is particularly susceptible because red paint molecules deteriorate faster in the sun than other paint colors.

To prevent potential sun-related damage, take these precautions.

- Avoid direct sunlight. Park in the shade as much as possible.

- Crack a window. If it is safe to do so, lower interior air temperature and equalize air pressure by opening up car windows a little.

- Use a windshield

protector. Reflect sunlight away and keep the vehicle cool with a windshield sun protector that unfolds and slides into place.

- Use a protectant wax. A layer of wax can

offer another layer of protection against the sun's ultraviolet rays.

- Wash the car frequently. Washing and hand-drying the vehicle helps to remove dirt and

other debris which can cause micro-scratches in the paint.

- Install seat covers. Seat covers can protect leather and fabric upholstery. A leather

conditioner can help prevent cracks and tears from sunlight and heat.

These steps are simple preventative measures that protect vehicles against sun damage.





## How To Get A Wi-Fi Enabled Car

Staying connected is more important than ever, whether you're at home or on the go. Connecting to Wi-Fi is typically easy at home, but what about when you're in the car?

Wi-Fi-enabled vehicles are becoming hot commodities for drivers. There are various ways to access the internet in a car. Drivers can buy an add-on device. Even mobile gadgets that aren't specifically designed for vehicle applications can be easily connected. The devices plug into the 12-volt accessory outlet. OBD II devices connect to a car's OBD II port. This is most often located below the steering wheel. Mechanics use this port to run digital vehicle diagnostics. However, it also can be used to create a Wi-Fi hot spot with an OBD device.

Another option is to use a smartphone to create a mobile hotspot through a cellular data plan. Anyone in the car can then tether their phones or other devices to the smartphone to access the internet.

Many vehicles are now equipped with their own

Wi-Fi capabilities. This means you will not need an extra device to access data and phone battery life. Cars that are not equipped with Wi-Fi can



the internet. However, you will probably need to sign up for an additional data plan through whatever service the car manufacturer uses to offer Wi-Fi capability or through your mobile phone carrier. AllConnect.

com says Wi-Fi plans for vehicles start as low as \$10 per month and may include unlimited data. Furthermore, car Wi-Fi is often different from a mobile hotspot because it is likely to offer better connection and more security while preserving mobile

have it as an add-on with an installed wireless vehicle router. These routers range from \$200 to \$600 and are professionally installed.

Having Wi-Fi in a vehicle is handy when taking road trips or when work requires internet connectivity. Dedicated vehicle internet can help save on mobile phone data plans and battery life. Plus, people increasingly staying at home can rely on a vehicle's Wi-Fi system as a back-up should their home internet go down.

## The Benefits Of Wearing Seat Belts

The importance of wearing seat belts in vehicles has resonated with drivers and passengers across the globe. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the national seat belt use rate in passenger vehicles in 2019 was 90.7 percent. And despite their simplicity, particularly when compared to

the various other technologies available in modern vehicles, seat belts remain an incredibly effective device against injury and even death, though only when drivers and their passengers remember to engage them. For example, the NHTSA notes that seat belts saved an estimated 14,955 lives in 2017 alone. Unfortunately,

the NHTSA also reports that 47 percent of the 37,133 people killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2017 were not wearing seat belts. Studies have indicated that front seat riders in cars who wear their seat belts can reduce their risk of fatal injury by 45 percent, while front seat riders in trucks can reduce their risk for fatal injury by 60 percent.

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## Extend The Life Of Your Car

In the market for a car? If you're planning on purchasing a used vehicle, you're in good company.

Nearly 70 percent of all car sales are used vehicles, likely due to the rising costs of new cars and the increasing quality of their used counterparts.

While previously owned vehicles make the best financial sense in a lot of cases, experts encourage motorists to keep a few things in mind.

"For the safety of everyone sharing the road with you and to protect your purchase, it's important to stay up-to-date on car maintenance," says Doug Turner, director of service operations at Byrider, the nation's largest used car and finance network of dealerships.

April is National Car Care Month and to help you extend the life of your used car, the automotive experts at Byrider are offering the following tips:

- Follow the maintenance recommendations of the

manufacturer to keep it running as smoothly as possible. This includes filling your vehicle with the proper gas, and using the proper oil per the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Prioritize preventive maintenance to avoid issues down the line. Pay special attention to noises or warning signs that could indicate your vehicle needs maintenance. Remember, warning lights on your dashboard are illuminated for a reason. Understand what they mean and address them as-needed.

- Keep the interior and exterior of your vehicle clean to prevent rust and other issues.

- Use only trusted repair services that hire Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)-certified technicians. This certification can make a big difference when it comes to quality repairs and maintenance.

- Complete as-needed or at a minimum, an annual inspection, on the vehicle. Keep in mind

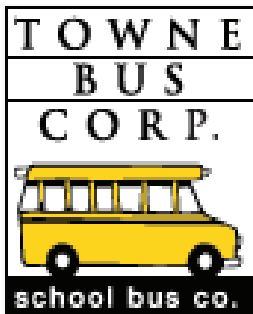
that different seasons of the year require different inspections and repairs.

- Use quality parts.
- When buying a vehicle, stick to retail dealers that put cars through a detailed inspection process to help ensure a given vehicle's safety and reliability. At the same time, consider dealers with an attached service department to help streamline maintenance and repairs. "Your relationship with the dealership shouldn't end once you drive the car off the lot," adds Turner. In the case of Byrider, every car sold comes with a warranty or optional vehicle service agreement, as well as discounted parts, labor and service. To learn more, visit [byrider.com](http://byrider.com).

A used vehicle can be a great investment. Extend the life of your car and stay safer on the roads by making smart purchasing decisions and taking a proactive approach to maintenance. (StatePoint)







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## How To Avoid And Repair Flat Tires

Nothing can delay road trips more suddenly than flat tires. Unfortunately, because tires are the only part of the vehicle constantly in contact with the road, wear and tear is to be expected.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says that flat tires and blowouts are a leading cause of highway traffic accidents. Even though flats cannot be prevented, there are ways to make tires less vulnerable and make vehicles safer along the way.

### FLAT TIRE AVOIDANCE

Routine inspection and tire maintenance is essential to their performance. In addition, paying attention to road hazards and avoiding them when possible can prolong the life of tires.

- **Tire pressure:** Tires should be maintained at the correct air pressure indicated on the sidewall or as advised by the manufacturer. Tires with too much air can be damaged by bumpy roads and potholes. Tires that are not inflated enough may increase friction on the roadway, resulting in a blowout. Check tire pressure routinely, and do so when the tires have rested for three hours. Many vehicles now monitor tire pressure automatically and alert drivers through a signal on the dashboard.

- **Tire wear:** The advisors at Select Auto Imports say that inspecting tires for uneven wear should be a routine part of maintenance. If tires show uneven wear, they may be more susceptible to flats or blowouts. Tire rotations can help alleviate uneven wear. The NHTSA recommends tires be rotated every 5,000 miles.

- **Tire treads:** The Allstate Insurance company says to look for worn tire treads. Check for wear bar indicator marks located between the tread pattern of the tires. If the wear bar is level with the treads, it's time for new tires. Otherwise, place a quarter between the grooves of the tire. If the tread doesn't extend beyond the top of Washington's head, it's a good idea to replace the tires.

- **Construction sites:** Drivers should try to avoid areas under construction. Rocks, nails, metal shards, glass, and divots in the roads can cause punctures and eventually flats.

### FLAT TIRE REPAIR

When flats occur, having the right tools and understanding the procedure for fixing the flat is key.

Drivers will need an inflated spare tire, a jack, a lug wrench, bracing material (to keep the vehicle from rolling, such as a brick or piece of wood), and the

vehicle's owner's manual.

Goodyear says it is essential to fix the flat in a safe area away from traffic and on a flat surface.

- Use the owner's manual to find the correct position to place the jack to lift the car.

- Remove hubcaps or center covers to access the lug nuts. With the lug wrench, loosen lug nuts in a counterclockwise direction.

- Take off the tire and put on the spare. Replace and tighten the lug nuts. Replace hubcaps or covers.

- Slowly lower the vehicle and drive cautiously to ensure the spare is in working order.

- Purchase a new tire or have a hole plugged or repaired at a tire center.







## Vehicle Maintenance Tasks Drivers Don't Want To Overlook



Savvy drivers recognize that maintenance is essential to keeping their vehicles running strong for years on end. Such maintenance ensures vehicles are safe to take out on the road, and basic upkeep also protects drivers' financial investments in their cars and trucks.

Drivers who are not mechanically inclined tend to put their vehicles in the hands of a trusted mechanic to perform routine maintenance like oil changes, but there's a host of simpler vehicle maintenance tasks that drivers don't want to overlook, some of which can be performed without visiting the auto body shop.

- **Brake inspections:** Brake inspections are best left to the professionals, who can check the thickness of brake pads and look for other indicators of excessive wear. The automotive resource Cars.com recommends having brakes inspected during

routine tire rotations, which many automotive professionals suggest should be done every six months.

- **Car wash:** Car washes might not be the first task drivers associate with vehicle maintenance, but they can prevent long-term damage to cars and trucks. Damage from bird droppings and road salt and ice melt products in the winter can damage a vehicle's paint job and its undercarriage. Wash the car on your own at home or visit a professional car wash to perform this simple yet vital maintenance at regular intervals and whenever you notice significant buildup of dirt and grime on the car's exterior.

- **Air filter:** The air filter on a car or truck prevents debris, dirt and other contaminants from getting into the engine. The auto insurance experts at Allstate® advise drivers to inspect their vehicle air filters once a year. Air filters

in need of replacement may appear dirty, and reduced fuel economy, unusual engine sounds and reduced horsepower are some other potential indicators that an air filter needs to be replaced.

- **Windshield wipers:** Windshield wiper blades are easily overlooked, but various automotive experts recommend replacing wiper blades every six to 12 months. Old wiper blades won't perform at peak capacity, dramatically reducing visibility during heavy rain and snowstorms. Anyone can replace their own windshield wiper blades in a matter of minutes, and new blades won't break the bank.

Vehicle maintenance is not exclusive to tending to what's under the hood. Keeping a car running smoothly for years involves routine tasks that many drivers can perform without professional assistance.



## How To Lower The Cost Of Auto Insurance

Auto insurance is a must-have for drivers. While it might seem hard to believe, as of 2019 there are still some places in the United States where auto insurance is not mandatory. Auto insurance is mandatory in Canada, though each province has its own requirements in terms of the minimum amount of coverage allowable by law.

Many people, even those in places where auto insurance is not mandatory, recognize the importance of being insured before they get behind the wheel. However, that doesn't mean those same drivers would not like to cut the cost of their auto insurance policies. A 2019 analysis from the online financial resource NerdWallet found that the average cost of car insurance in the United States is \$1,621 per year. Average insurance costs vary significantly in Canada, where data from the General Insurance Statistical Agency found that, in 2019, the average annual insurance premium in British Columbia exceeded \$1,800, while drivers in Quebec paid slightly more than \$700 annually.

No matter where drivers live, chances

are they would love to lower their auto insurance costs. While there's no one-size-fits-all solution to cut auto insurance premiums, drivers can try various strategies to save money on their policies.

- **Raise your policy's deductibles.** Higher deductibles may sound scary to drivers, but raising the deductibles is a great way to lower the cost of auto insurance. The auto insurance provider Progressive notes that deductibles typically range from \$100

to \$2,000. A driver whose policy has a \$100 deductible will pay considerably more on his policy per month than a driver with a higher deductible. In fact, the Insurance Information Institute notes that drivers who increase their deductibles from \$200 to \$1,000 can save 40 percent or more on their coverage costs. Drivers who choose this option should always be sure they have enough money in the bank to cover the cost of their deductibles.



- **Bundle your policies.** Some drivers save money on their auto insurance policies by buying two or more types of insurance from the same provider. For example, homeowners may save money by buying homeowners insurance from their auto insurance providers or vice versa.

- **Research potential discounts.** The III notes that many companies offer discounts to policyholders, even if those discounts are not necessarily promoted. Drivers can contact their insurance companies, or shop around with other providers, to ask about various discounts that can save them money on their policies. Anti-theft devices, defensive driving courses, low annual mileage, and a strong credit record are just a handful of the many potential discounts drivers may be eligible for.

Drivers can reduce the cost of their auto insurance policies in various ways, potentially saving themselves hundreds of dollars each year as a result.

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We need help to rebuild our community and be part of the solution.

Come visit us at N.Y.S. Discount Tire and Auto!

**STAY SAFE EVERYONE**



# DEER PARK AUTO REPAIRS



Honesty Is Our #1 Policy

1470 DEER PARK AVE.  
NORTH BABYLON

631-595-1900

CORNER OF PRAIRIE DRIVE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM-6PM • SATURDAY 8AM-4PM • NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



## SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

**\$59<sup>95</sup>**  
+TAX

Up To 5 Qts. Some Filters Extra.  
Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## REGULAR OIL CHANGE

• New Engine Oil & Filter  
• 16-Point Vehicle Check Up  
• Up To 5 Qts Of Oil.  
• Most American Cars  
• SUV's & Foreign Cars Extra  
• Cartridge Filters Extra  
**\$21<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## BRAKES & ROTORS INSTALLED

STARTING  
AT **\$219<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX  
No Gimmicks

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## FRONT OR REAR BRAKE PADS

STARTING  
AT **\$99<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX  
Installed

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

**WE ARE  
OPEN!**  
While Gas  
Station Is Under  
Renovation

## PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTION

**\$39<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX

LET US INSPECT THE VEHICLE  
BEFORE YOU BUY IT

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## FRONT DRIVE AXLES

• Inspect Front End  
• Inspect Suspension  
• Grease All Points  
(Necessary)  
• Most American Cars  
• SUV's & Foreign Cars Extra  
• Full Sized Vans Extra  
**\$149<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX  
Per Axle

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON?

**FREE SCAN**

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

**\$10 OFF**

**ANY SERVICE  
OVER \$100**

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

**NYS  
INSPECTIONS**

## ANTI-FREEZE SPECIAL

Drain & Fill (Up To 2 Gals.)  
Free Hose Check, Belts  
& Heating System.  
DexCool Extra  
**\$49<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## AIR CONDITIONING RECHARGE SPECIAL

**\$89<sup>99</sup>**  
+TAX

UP TO 2 LBS. FREON 134A ONLY

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

## FREE REGULAR OIL CHANGE

WITH ANY REPAIRS TOTALING  
\$300 OR MORE

(Excluding Tire Purchase)

Cannot Be Combined With Any Other Offer.

MEMBER OF



**WE WILL PICK UP & DROP OFF LOCALLY. HOME, WORK OR TRAIN.  
FACTORY TRAINED TECHNICIANS**



## SPRING SAVINGS!

We're Here For You!

**SAMMY'S AUTO REPAIR**

Honesty  
& Quality

We Fix It Right The First Time. No Gimmicks!

## SPRING SAFETY CHECK

INCLUDES:

- Oil Change (Up to 5 Qts.)
- 2 New Wiper Blades
- Check Brakes & Front End
- Top All Fluids
- Check Tire Pressure (Most Cars)
- Check All Belts & Hoses
- New Coolant (Up To 2 Gallons) (Dextron Extra)

**\$85<sup>00</sup>**  
+TAX

With Coupon Only. Expires 5/5/21

## FREE OIL CHANGE OR FREE VALUE CARWASH

With Any Service  
\$100 Or More

With Coupon Only. Expires 5/5/21

## SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT

**10% OFF**  
All Medical Personnel,  
First Responders, Civil Service  
and Military Personnel



PICK UP & DROP-OFF  
SERVICE AVAILABLE

Like us on  
Facebook

Sammy's Auto Repair

WE DO NYS  
INSPECTIONS



**64 Merrick Rd., Amityville**

1/4 Mile West Of Route 110 [www.sammysautorepair.com](http://www.sammysautorepair.com)

**631-873-4631 • 631-873-4649**

382824BN042121

382796AN042121



# HONEST WORK... HONEST PRICES

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE SINCE 1990!  
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED NEAR AMITYVILLE LIRR STATION

## AUTO-TOPIA

**TIRE & AUTO CENTER**  
**631-797-0029**

- TIRE & AUTO REPAIR
- WHEEL ALIGNMENT
- AUTO BODY/COLLISIONS
- PRE-OWNED AUTO SALES



**WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL COMPETITORS' TIRE PRICES!**  
**233 County Line Road., Amityville**  
**631.797.0029**



Certified Technicians

382692N042121

### BRAKE SPECIAL

**\$59.95**   
(FOR LABOR)  
Most Vehicles

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### \$200 OFF ANY PRE-OWNED USED CAR PURCHASE

Coupon Must Be Presented At Time Of Deal Negotiation  
With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### SHOCKS, STRUTS & MUFFLERS 30% OFF

Parts And Labor, Most Vehicles



**LIFETIME WARRANTY ON PARTS**

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### \$120 OFF

**Set Of 4 Tires**  
Plus Any Manufacturer's Rebates

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### Up To An Additional \$70 OFF

**Mail In Savings Set Of 4 Tires**  
• General • Hercules  
• Hankook • Yokohama

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### Hunter Computerized Wheel Alignment

**\$20 OFF**

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 4/30/21

### A/C RECHARGE SPECIAL

**\$89.95**

Up To 1 Lb. R134A

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### Lube, Oil, Filter Service

**\$25.95**

20 Pt. Check (Synthetic Oil Extra)

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### \$20 OFF

**Any Invoice Over \$100**

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21

### ROAD TRIP SPECIAL

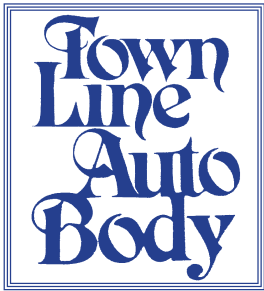
**\$89.95**

Coolant Flush, Maintenance Checkup (Up To 2 Gals Prestone Coolant)

With Coupon • Coupons Cannot Be Combined • Expires 5/15/21







# Town Line Auto Body

**Where Quality Service  
and Workmanship are  
Not a Thing of the Past!**

Town Line Auto Body has been serving the community and surrounding areas for over 50 years. We can complete any auto repair that comes in.



**COLLISION / BODYWORK • UNIBODY / FRAME STRAIGHTENING  
PAINT • COMPLETE MECHANICAL SERVICES • 24 HOUR TOWING**

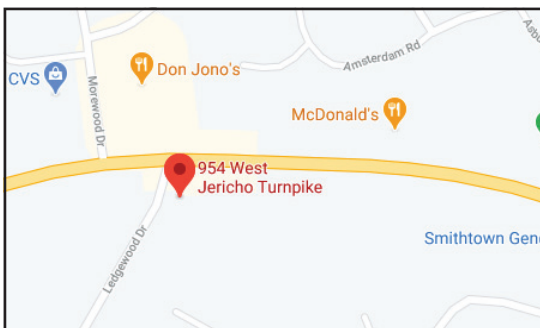
***All Of Our Work Is Guaranteed!***



*The Hagenberger and Town Line Auto Body family is proud to be here for all our customers' auto repair needs while continuing Fred Hagenberger's distinguished legacy of community service even after his passing.*



**HOURS: SUNDAY CLOSED • MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30AM - 5:00PM • SATURDAY 8:30AM-11:30AM**



**631.543.1720**

**954 W. Jericho Tpke.  
Smithtown, NY**

**www.TownLineAutoBody.com**

**"Town Line Auto Body"**

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