

Car Care Corner

A Race Car Driver's Advice On Keeping Your Vehicle Roadworthy

(NAPSA)—Keeping your car on the road to safety and savings can be a bit easier if you heed some hints from no less an expert than Sam Hornish Jr., current driver of the Sprint Cup Series, #77 Mobil 1 Dodge and former three-time IndyCar Series Champion.

He tells drivers, “At the track, we know we’re dealing with extreme engine conditions. What the everyday driver might not realize is that daily commutes can also put a lot of stress on an engine.”

When not racing, Hornish spends a lot of time under the hood, customizing cars as a hobby and collecting both classic and new automobiles. With that experience, he has these tips to share with drivers:

1. Give you car a thorough washing—Dirt, grime and salt are horrible for your car’s paint and undercarriage. Get a car wash to protect your vehicle from rust and protect its resale value. Be sure to spray the underbody and underneath the bumpers (rear and front) to rinse away any salt buildup.

2. Check your windshield wiper blades—Make sure they’re up to the task.



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3. Check your tires—Hornish changes his race tires based on the track conditions, and you should do the same for your driving conditions. At the very least, check your tire pressure to ensure proper inflation. Properly inflated tires will save you money on gas and decrease tread wear.

4. Change your oil—Hornish stresses that this is perhaps the most important advice he can give. Oil is the lifeblood of your

engine, so he recommends using premium oil and changing it as recommended. He suggests a synthetic oil such as Mobil 1[®], which is specifically designed to protect critical engine parts while optimizing your engine’s efficiency and reducing oil consumption.

5. Check your brakes—If you hear grinding, squealing, screeching or chatter, get the brakes checked.

6. Apply a protectant—The sun can crack and fade the vinyl on your seats and steering wheel. Wipe it down with some good spray protectant to prevent ugly damage.

7. Check your AC—Check the vent temperature (pressure) of the cooling system with a vent thermometer—available at autopart stores for less than \$10. The vent temperature should be 55 degrees or less. If it’s not, schedule service.

“Whether you’re road-tripping to the track or just taking your kids to school, following these simple tips will ensure a less stressful drive and, most importantly, a safer drive,” says Hornish.

For more information on vehicle maintenance, visit www.mobil1.com.