

Car Care Corner

How To Give Your Brakes A Longer Life

(NAPSA)—The first stop on the road to safety is taking care of your brakes. Doing so will not only extend the life of your brakes, it will help to increase your vehicle's fuel economy.

These tips will help:

- Observe the speed limit for safety's sake. Just as it takes less gas to stay within the speed limit than it does to exceed the limit, it takes less braking effort to slow your vehicle compared to the work it takes to slow you down from higher speeds.

- Do not carry unneeded weight in your car.

- Avoid continuous speeding up and slowing down.

- Avoid heavy traffic whenever possible by planning your trips to avoid rush hour traffic.

- If you are caught in rush hour traffic, leave additional room between your car and the car in front. You won't have to brake as hard should the vehicle in front slow suddenly.

- Do not rest your foot on the brake pedal.

- Use a lower gear on long downhill inclines rather than using the brakes only to control your downhill speed.

Finally, keep your brakes in proper adjustment and have them checked regularly. It helps to keep your rear brakes in proper adjustment as they wear,



BRAKE TIPS: Extended brake life, plus enhanced fuel economy, can be realized by following these braking tips offered by Toyota.

so that the rear brakes remain able to carry their share of the braking load. If the rear brakes wear and are not adjusted, the front brakes have to carry more of the braking load, which makes them work harder and become hotter than necessary.

Some vehicles have features that help adjust the rear brakes. For example, Toyota owners should always use the parking brake (except in freezing weather), because the Toyota parking brake mechanism helps adjust the rear brakes.

Following these simple tips on brake use will help make your next trip a lot safer.