

Be Car Care Aware[®]

Lights, Wipers: Keys To Seeing And Being Seen

(NAPSA)—When the days get shorter, lights and wipers play a major role in safe driving, as the chance of an accident increases if you can't see or be seen.

“It's important to make sure your vehicle's lights and wipers are working properly so your visibility is not compromised and you can be seen by others,” explained automotive expert Rich White. “From the driver's seat, you may not notice a light that isn't working, so inspect all of your car's lights and replace those that are out. Also, inspect and replace wiper blades so you can see clearly when wet weather hits.”

Learn About Lights

Lights are normal-wear items that require periodic inspection and replacement. The lighting system provides nighttime visibility; signals and alerts other drivers; and supplies light for viewing instruments and the vehicle's interior. You should replace dimming, rapidly blinking and non-functioning lights. In addition, here are four tips that can help keep you safe.

- Keep headlights, taillights and signal lights clean. External dirt and debris can dim operational lights and keep them from being seen easily.

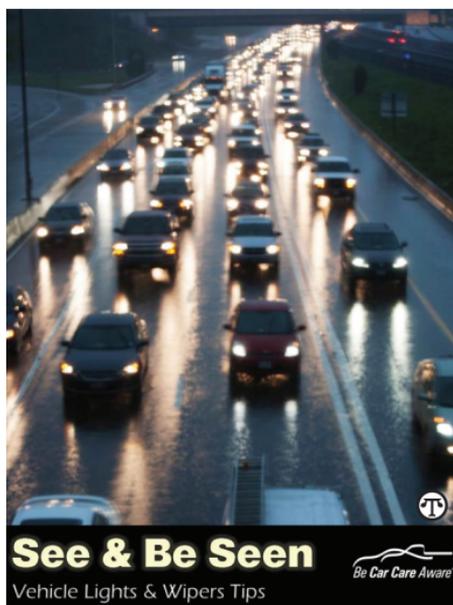
- Make sure your headlights are properly aimed. Misaimed headlights blind other drivers and reduce your ability to see the road.

- If there's any doubt about whether your headlights should be on, turn them on. They not only help you see better in dim light, they make it easier for other drivers to see you.

- Don't overdrive your headlights. You should be able to stop inside the illuminated area; otherwise, you're creating a blind crash area in front of your vehicle.

What To Know About Wipers

The wiper system keeps excessive water, snow and dirt from



For safety's sake, it's a bright idea to regularly check your car's lights and windshield wipers so you can see and be seen.

building up on the windshield, maintaining clear visibility. Many factors can accelerate the replacement interval of wipers, including operating conditions, frequency of use, material and type of wipers, and sunshine. Wiper blades can deteriorate faster and need more frequent replacement if you drive a lot in dry places. Remember to check the rear window wiper blade, too.

Added White, who's executive director, Car Care Council, “Keeping your vehicle's lights properly cared for and replacing wiper blades periodically will help ensure a safer ride, keeping the road ahead well lit and giving you a clear view.”

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the “Be Car Care Aware” consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For a free copy of the council's popular “Car Care Guide” or for more information, visit www.carcare.org.