

Car Care Corner

Quick Tips For Family Trips

(NAPSA)—After you've made hotel reservations and traced your route on a map, there are a few things you can do to make sure your summer vacation will be as safe and smooth as can be. About two weeks before your trip, take a few minutes to make sure your car is running like a "well-oiled machine" and is ready to go:

- Make sure all hoses and belts are in good condition. Belts should be tight, with no cracks or swelling.

- To help prevent overheating, check the radiator fluid level. This should be done without removing the radiator cap by ensuring the radiator overflow bottle is at the proper level.

- Check battery terminals for corrosion or loose connections. If your battery is not maintenance-free, check to see if it needs water.

- Examine your tire pressure and tread depth. Check to see if your tires are wearing evenly. And don't forget to check the spare.

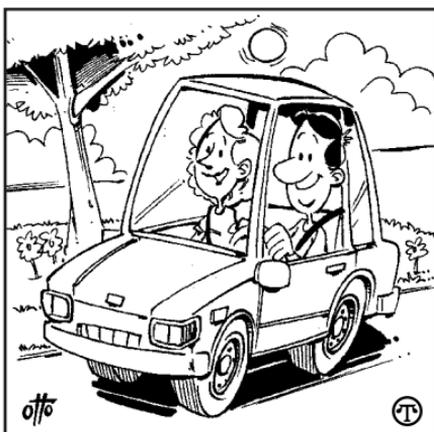
- Change your oil if your trip will take you over your auto manufacturer's mileage recommendation based on your driving habits.

- Make sure the exterior lights work properly, including turning signals and brake lights.

- Pack an emergency kit in the trunk. Include a flashlight with extra batteries, water, flares, extra windshield fluid, battery jumper cables or a battery booster pack, and a first aid kit.

If you'd prefer to have someone else help prepare your car for a trip, take it to a vehicle maintenance service center. As part of a Jiffy Lube Signature Service® oil change, for example, you get an oil change and new oil filter, plus Jiffy Lube trained and certified technicians will check your air filter, wiper blades and brake fluid. Technicians will also check and fill your chassis fittings, plus transmission, differential, windshield washer and battery fluids.

Some service centers also provide diagnostic services. One service will check oil and transmission fluids for levels of "wear metals" and contaminants that indicate the overall condition of



When your car is properly serviced (and stocked with supplies), family road trips can be much more enjoyable.

the engine and transmission internal parts. Other services will make sure the battery, starter, alternator and computer system are in good working order.

Once your car is road-safe, here are some suggestions to make the trip as easy as possible on your young travel companions:

- Depart close to nap time or in the early morning, when children are more likely to sleep through part of the day's journey.

- Try to take a 20-minute break for every two hours of travel. Look for parks and rest stops so everyone can stretch a little.

- Keep a scrapbook and have the children maintain it by pasting in brochures, ticket stubs and other items.

- Prepare surprise packets for children to open periodically if you're driving for many hours. Travel games, snacks, drawing materials and small toys are ideal.

- Bring peppermint gum, lemon cookies plus foods high in carbohydrates and salt, like crackers and pretzels, if a child is prone to motion sickness on a long trip.

- Stock the car with wet wipes, adhesive bandages, antihistamines, hydrocortisone cream, antacid, pain relievers, bottled water, blankets and pillows.

- Always reward the young passengers for good behavior!

For more tips on "summerizing" your car for family road trips, visit www.jiffylube.com.