



# CAR CARE CORNER

## Put Vehicle Maintenance On Your “To-Do” List

(NAPSA)—Now is the time, experts say, for motorists to make sure their vehicles are in top-notch condition before hitting the road. Taking the time to have routine vehicle maintenance performed can help improve a vehicle’s fuel efficiency and achieve peak performance.

“Postponing an inspection or routine service might seem like a trivial matter, but unperformed maintenance can have serious consequences,” said Peter Lord, executive director, GM Service Operations. “Neglected maintenance can lead to mechanical failures and other, bigger problems down the road.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that tire failures and blowouts contribute to 414 deaths and 10,275 nonfatal injuries each year in the U.S. Underinflation is the leading cause of tire failure, according to the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA).

GM Goodwrench offers multi-point inspections for vehicles, comprehensive diagnostic testing and complete service capabilities. In addition, its experts offer motorists the following tips:

- Tire pressure. About 20 percent of cars inspected in check lanes during National Car Care

### Vehicle Safety Checklist

- Keep an eye on your tire pressure—underinflated tires result in low mileage and increased risk for accidents.
- Wiper blades and fluid—replace wiper blades every six months and keep washer fluid reservoir full.
- Lubricants and fluids—make sure transmission and power steering fluid and oil are full and running clean.
- Belts and hoses—inspect regularly.



**Experts believe postponing a vehicle inspection or routine service can have serious consequences. Neglected maintenance can lead to mechanical failures and other, bigger problems down the road.**

Month have underinflated tires, which can result in a blowout and a serious accident. Low tire pressure can reduce gas mileage and tire life and worn tread can lead to problems on wet and snowy roads.

- Wipers. Generally, wipers should be replaced every six months, ideally in the spring and fall. At the same time, make sure the windshield washers work properly and keep the washer fluid reservoir full.

- Lubricants and fluids. Nearly 30 percent of vehicles failed inspections as a result of too little, too much or dirty motor oil, and 26 percent had low, overfull or burnt

transmission fluid.

Twenty-one percent had low or dirty power-steering fluid, 23 percent had low or contaminated brake fluid and 18 percent failed the washer fluid inspection. Improper fluid levels can affect a vehicle’s safety and damage vehicle components.

- Parts. Having belts and hoses regularly inspected and replaced when needed helps motorists avoid roadside breakdowns.

Goodwrench is the service brand for GM vehicles. For more information, visit the GM Goodwrench Web site at [www.goodwrench.com](http://www.goodwrench.com).