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SPRING AUTO

CARE GUIDE



A Special Supplement to The Cleveland Daily Banner

April 2022

More than sparkle & shine

Why it's important to wash your car, inside and out

By ANNA SHAND
Banner Correspondent

Though oil changes and routine tune-ups are often the first things to mind when discussing vehicle maintenance, washing a car is often just as important.

An effective car wash is more than just cosmetic. According to Consumer Reports, a thorough car wash removes grit and residue, thus protecting the car's paint job and reducing the likelihood of corrosion. Though late-model vehicles aren't as susceptible to rust, fading and peeling as cars made decades ago, they still need a thorough and routine wash to remove dirt, grime and bird droppings that, over time, can adversely affect the paint job and, if left unchecked, eat away at the metal.

Routine car washes can also prevent damage related to seasonal issues. Individuals who live in regions where winter snowfall is common may routinely drive on roads that have been salted. Deicing the roads makes driving safer, but salt can accumulate on the vehicle's undercarriage and contribute to corrosion. Most car washes now offer high-pressure undercarriage treatments to wash off salt and prevent corrosion and the formation of rust.

The interior of vehicles is also important to maintain. Sometimes referred to as "interior detailing," cleaning the car's cabin helps maintain the interior. Routine interior cleaning also removes dust and other particles that can serve as irritants if allowed to build up over time.

David Pullen, owner of Pullen's Auto Sales & Detail Shop on Lee Highway, says cleaning one's car is just as important as cleaning one's house.



Contributed photos

A THOROUGH CAR WASH removes grit and residue, thus protecting the car's paint job and reducing the likelihood of corrosion.

"For example, your car is an investment and protecting the value is very important," Pullen said. "[It is] as important as protecting the paint job from the elements of Mother Nature by keeping it polished and waxed, [to] reduce the chance of oxidation.

"As far as the interior, just by keeping it clean reduces odors, but also with the heat that can buildup inside, one also needs to think about keeping it conditioned to prevent cracking," he added.

By taking care of a vehicle's interior, drivers are putting themselves in a position to capitalize on the increased reliance on the preowned market. Whether they're private citizens or dealerships, prospective buyers will see more value in a vehicle with a well-maintained interior than one with a deteriorating cabin.

The automotive experts at Edmunds note that the average transaction price for a used vehicle in the second quar-

ter of 2021 was \$25,410, which marks a 21% increase over the year prior. Much has been made of the microchip issues that have compromised auto manufacturers' ability to produce new automobiles, and that led many motorists to the preowned vehicle market.

Car washes may be seen as a purely cosmetic form of vehicle maintenance, but the benefits of routine and thorough car washes extend far beyond aesthetic appeal.



THE MIRROR FINISH on this car, serviced by Pullen's Auto Sales & Detail Shop, not only looks good but also protects the paint.



WHAT'S UNDER the shiny hood gets special attention, too, during a detail service.

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Classic car restoration is rewarding labor of love

By **ALLEN MINCEY**
Banner Correspondent

They're eye-catching, often exotic and always call to mind a bygone era. Classic cars are undeniably unique and their unrivaled automotive appeal has inspired legions of fans. That appeal also has compelled many to try their hand at classic car restoration.

Restoring a classic car can be a rewarding hobby, particularly the first time a vehicle emerges from its owner's garage and hits the open road. Car buffs interested in restoring a classic car of their own can consider various factors before they lift the hood on this challenging yet rewarding hobby.

Gary Pitcock said that he had done some renovation on his 1933 Ford Coupe, but had tried to keep it as authentic as possible.

"I've had it five years now, and when I got it, it was in really good shape," he noted. "We've done some modifications to it, and upgrades, but the body for the most part was in really great shape."

If one is to drive the car, especially from the early years, there will be those modifications that will probably be needed, such as air conditioning, power windows, power seats, power steering and even a cup holder.

"The first thing you want to do is make sure it is road safe," Pitcock said about purchasing a classic automobile. "That depends on just what you want to do with the car ... if you want just enjoy the car or if you win a trophy at a car show."

The amount of work one wants to put into the vehicle sometimes leads owners to minimize their dreams. Also a big consideration is the cost of the work.

It's hard to know if a classic car restoration will cost owners more time or money, but restoration novices should expect to spend a lot of both as they work to restore a ride to its former glory. CarsDirect.com estimates that a restoration done by a professional shop can cost anywhere from \$40,000 to \$60,000, and that does not necessarily include the cost of the vehicle.

If the financial commitment raises an eyebrow, perhaps would-be car guys and gals should look away from the estimated time it takes to restore a classic car. CarsDirect notes that it can take around 1,000 hours for DIYers to restore a classic car. The excitement of restoring a classic car can quickly wear off if owners don't have enough time and/or money to keep the project going at a steady pace.

See **CRUISE-IN**, Page 5



Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

GREG AND KALISTA PITCOCK with their 1933 Ford Coupe on display at Saturday's first MainStreet Cruise-In of the year at the Bradley County Courthouse Square. Pitcock said much of the car is in its original condition, though he has added air conditioning and other amenities.



Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

THOUGH SOME OF THE CLASSIC CARS were transported to the MainStreet Cruise-In on Saturday, several were driven there by their owners.

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Banner photo, ALLEN MINCEY

CLYDE KAYLOR buffs his 1955 Chevrolet BelAir that he had at the Main-Street Cruise-In on Saturday.

CRUISE-IN: Classic car restoration is rewarding labor of love

From Page 4

Some car buffs may already envision which type of car they want to restore. Some may want to restore a classic Ford Mustang like the one they drove in high school, while others with a flare for automotive history might want to restore a 1930s classic. Whatever your preference, make sure you find a car that won't bust your budget.

Even the initial cost to purchase the car from a local salvage yard can be deceiving. Some cars might only be affordable because they've experienced such extensive damage that the cost to restore them will be especially high. It's good to know what you're looking for as you begin to scour newspaper classified ads or visit local salvage yards. But allow yourself some room for flexibility in regard to the type of car you're willing to restore. That can ensure you aren't breaking your budget right away or overcommitting yourself to a project that may prove beyond your range of abilities. Online car forums can be great places to get some insight into restoration, especially for beginners.

In addition to determining which car

to get and how much time and money you can realistically devote to the restoration project, car enthusiasts must determine which tools they'll need, where they're going to work on the project and the availability of discounted parts. Discounted parts can help offset considerable restoration costs, so access to a local seller or salvage yard can be a significant advantage.

The internet has made finding parts easier, as resources like CheapAuto-Parts.com can be invaluable. A place to work also is a must-have, so garages may need to be outfitted to make projects more enjoyable. Tools also can be costly, though CarsDirect notes that different steps in the process require different tools. That can make it easier to spread out the cost of buying new tools.

Classic car restoration can be an engaging hobby, as Pitcock related. He said that he has had four or five inquiries about how to get started. Novices are urged to learn as much about restoration as possible before they decide to fully commit to this potentially rewarding endeavor.

Gas apps to get you through the price surge

By **TOMMY TINDALL**
NerdWallet

World events have gas prices through the roof. It might be time to download GasBuddy, GetUpside or a similar fuel-centric app. While there's no silver bullet to supreme savings on this global commodity, a gas app can help you pinch pennies.

- **GasBuddy:** Best for checking local gas prices and saving cents per gallon when you pay with the GasBuddy card. The crowd-sourced gas app relies on users to report real-time prices at stations all over. You can also save money and earn cash back when you set up a Pay with GasBuddy account.

- **GetUpside:** Best for getting cash back on gas purchases without the need for a new payment method. GetUpside is a free app that connects users to deals on gas, groceries and restaurants at participating locations. Use the app to find offers at gas stations near you, then claim the one you want right before you fill up. The cash

you earn stores up and won't expire.

- **Checkout 51:** Best for getting cash back on gas purchases in the form of a check. Checkout 51 is another app that pays out cash back on a variety of purchases, including gas. Checkout 51 partners with GetUpside to provide gas offers at the same list of partnering stations all over the U.S. You'll need a minimum balance of \$20 to cash out

- **Google Maps:** Best for gas station prices and directions in one place. The Google Maps app will help you find the nearest gas station and point you to the cheapest. Current gas prices display in the business profile of many stations.

- **Drivvo:** Best for tracking the true cost of car ownership, including miles per gallon. Keeping up with your car's maintenance is an easy way to save money on gas, and the Drivvo app helps you do that. It's an automobile expense tracker and maintenance minder in one, but it takes some diligence to get the most out of it.

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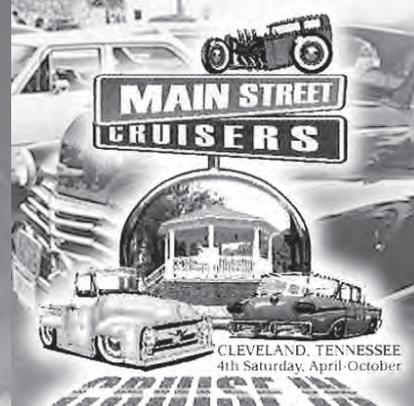




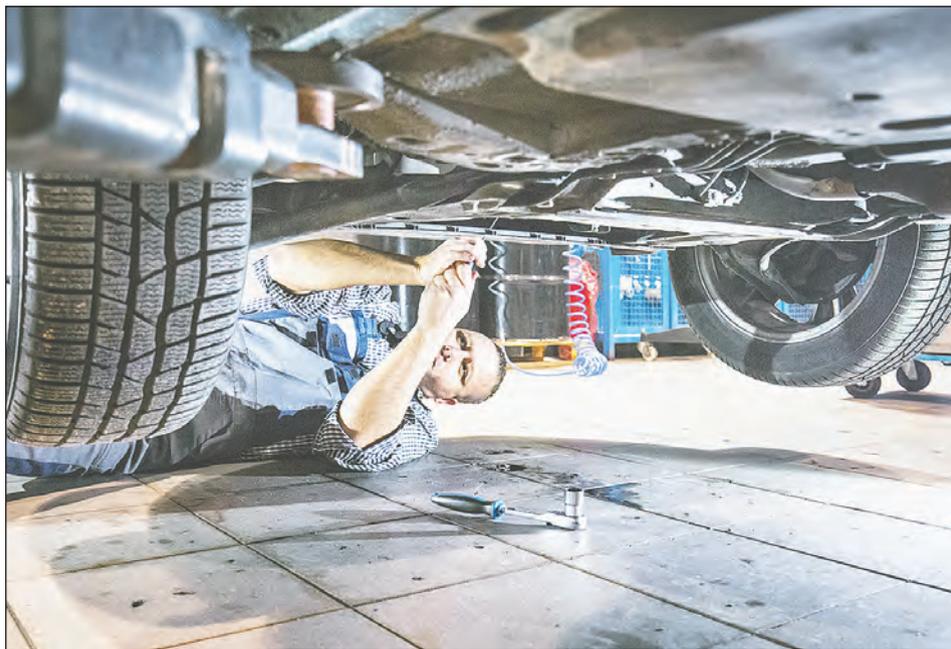

MainStreet Cruise-In

Cleveland's Downtown
Classic Car Event

Fourth Saturday of Each Month
April - October, 1 PM to 6 PM



CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE
4th Saturday, April-October



Contributed photos

STAYING ON TOP of maintenance issues can save money while also improving vehicle performance and efficiency.

Understanding the importance of routine vehicle maintenance

By METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Owning a car is a big responsibility. Drivers who plan to keep their vehicles for the long haul must emphasize maintenance if they want to keep adding miles to their odometers. In fact, the automotive information site CarAdvice says that routine maintenance may be the most important thing drivers can do for their vehicles.

A vehicle needs consistent care if it is to run efficiently. Maintenance also reduces the risk of roadside breakdowns and costly repairs. Here's a look at some of the benefits of staying on top of maintenance.

• **Saves money:** Even though maintenance costs money, sticking to a consistent maintenance schedule can save big bucks in the long run. For example, the cost of rotating and aligning tires is considerably less than repairing a car after a major blowout and paying for a tow and tire replacement.

• **Improves performance and efficiency:** Routine maintenance includes oil changes, filter changes and fluid top-offs. Such tasks keep en-

gines running smoothly. Ignoring this routine maintenance can put engines in jeopardy of breaking down and adversely affect vehicle performance, diminishing fuel economy and leading to a sluggish ride.

• **Identifies safety issues:** Routine inspections and work performed by reputable service stations help drivers stay abreast of recalls or issues that can affect the safety of the vehicle.

• **Maintains a maintenance record:** When the time comes to sell the vehicle, having a log of routine maintenance indicates to potential buyers that the vehicle was well cared for.

• **Keeps compliance:** Vehicles covered under manufacturer's warranties typically need to be maintained in adherence to factory-recommended maintenance schedules. This ensures that the vehicle is in compliance and will be covered in the event of a warranty claim.

Routine vehicle maintenance is important for a variety of reasons. Drivers can work with a trusted and reliable mechanic to develop a schedule that keeps their cars and trucks on the road.

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Tips to prevent catalytic converter theft

By **PHILIP REED**
NerdWallet

Catalytic converter theft is on the rise nationwide. Thieves can steal this antipollution device in a matter of minutes and sell it to scrap metal dealers for several hundred dollars for the precious metals it contains.

Insurance giant State Farm says it handled three times as many catalytic converter theft claims in 2021 as it did in 2020 — and more than 10 times as many as in 2019.

Here are the top tips from mechanics and law enforcement agencies to avoid a wrenching experience and a costly repair.

Know if you're a target for catalytic converter theft

Call a good local muffler store and ask what cars have been targeted in your area. I called a shop and, sure enough, they reeled off many vehicles affected nearby, such as Ford trucks,

Honda Elements and Jeep Cherokees, that had often been seen in the shop for a catalytic converter replacement.

Trucks and SUVs are often hit by thieves because it's easy to slide under the vehicle rather than jack it up. Sometimes thieves unbolt the catalytic converter, but more often they just cut the connecting pipes using a battery-operated saw.

Install an anti-theft device on your catalytic converter

Investing in a cable locking device is much cheaper than replacing a catalytic converter, says Arantxa Chavarria, public information officer for the Long Beach, California, police department. The internet is filled with such devices to protect the catalytic converter, which is part of the exhaust system that runs along the bottom of your car. The anti-theft devices Sandman's shop installs range from \$250 to \$800.

Here are a few of the popular devices

available:

- A steel shield that fits over the catalytic converter, requiring time and extra tools to remove.
- Cages made of rebar or other high-strength steel that's difficult to cut.
- Stainless steel cables welded from the catalytic converter to the car's frame.

Paint your catalytic converter

Some sources recommend using a high-temperature fluorescent orange paint, such as those sprayed on barbecue grills, on your catalytic converter and then inscribing your vehicle identification number in the painted surface. This makes it traceable, and in theory at least, a reputable scrap metal dealer might decline to buy it.

Set an alarm or camera to catch thieves

You can turn up the sensitivity of your car alarm so that it goes off when thieves jostle your car. Other alarms

are designed to be activated when the car is tilted, such as when it's jacked up. Installing a motion-sensitive dash cam can notify you of a theft in progress or possibly record the license plate of the getaway car.

In addition to alarms, get motion-sensitive lights and parking in your driveway or a closed garage whenever possible.

Check your car insurance

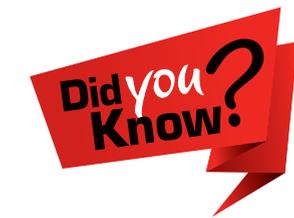
Comprehensive insurance covers stolen auto parts.

If you have full coverage — liability insurance, plus collision and comprehensive policies that repair or replace your own car — you're covered, minus your deductible amount. It's typically required if you have a loan or lease. If you have a vehicle at high risk for a catalytic converter theft, you might consider lowering your deductible amount.

If you carry liability coverage only, you're not covered for theft.

Many drivers recognize the importance of vehicle maintenance, but a significant percentage are putting off taking timely care of their cars.

IMR Inc. surveys 25,000 households each quarter, asking participants how they have serviced and maintained their vehicles. In the first quarter of 2020, much of which occurred



prior to the declaration of a global pandemic, nearly 18% of respondents indicated they had delayed vehicle repairs

or maintenance. IMR classified "delayed maintenance" as repairs and maintenance that vehicle owners intentionally put off despite knowing the vehicles needed them.

Adhering to manufacturer-recommended maintenance schedules is a great way to discover minor issues before they escalate into larger, more costly concerns.

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Address headlight glare to improve driving safety

By METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Headlight glare becomes dangerous when visibility is impaired to a point where the risk of accidents is heightened. Glare is a growing problem for many modern drivers due to the increased use of light emitting diodes in headlights.

Driving at night is challenging because pedestrians, cars and other obstacles are difficult to see once the sun sets. However, a study from the U.S. Department of Transportation found that 88% of drivers noticed LED and HID headlight glare, with more than 30% saying the glare is “disturbing.” While LED lights may not actually be brighter, their “cool” spectrum make them appear so. Studies have found that blue and white light tends to hit people’s eyes harder, especially at night.

While glare can be problematic, drivers can take certain steps to make it safer to drive at night.

- **Clean the windshield.** Dirt and grime found on the windshield can refract light and make glare worse. Clean all windows and mirrors, inside and out.

- **Repair scratches and cracks.** Glare can be exacerbated by any imperfections in the windshield.

- **Get a vision and health check.** Changes to vision can impact how glare affects certain individuals. Vitamin A deficiency can cause night blindness, also known as nyctalopia. Eye shape changes, including a condition called keratoconus, can affect vision. Cataracts and diabetes also impair vision.

- **Change your line of sight.** Do not look directly into oncoming headlights. Rather, look slightly down and to the right side of the road so that you’re



Contributed photo

HEADLIGHT GLARE is a growing problem for drivers due to the increased use of LEDs.

not focusing on the beams.

- **Get glare-resistant coatings on eyeglasses.** Speak with an optician about eyeglasses with anti-glare coating. This will significantly reduce the amount of glare. Those who don’t wear eyeglasses can purchase specific

anti-glare glasses to wear in high-glare conditions, such as when looking at computer and phone screens.

- **Flip the rearview mirror to “night” mode.** This will make it appear as though lights coming from behind are dimmer.

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