

How to Ensure a Trouble Free Vacation

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes vacations. Ask any tow truck driver along the highway or in a resort area and he'll agree, "Year after year, car trouble forces vacationers back home ahead of schedule, ruining the vacation they have had long planned".

Car trouble usually means more than just a repair bill. It can involve towing charges, lodging (667 9417) and possibly rental car fees.

This scenario can be avoided with a pre-vacation inspection performed by an ASE certified shop. This check-up for your car should include the following systems:

- ✓ Cooling system
- ✓ Brakes
- ✓ Emission controls
- ✓ Steering/suspension
- ✓ Fuel
- ✓ Electrical & ignition

In addition engine performance, tires, climate control, gauges, windshield wipers, horns, lights and seat belts should also be checked.

Not only can a pre-trip inspection help reduce costly and possibly dangerous road trouble, it gives you an opportunity to have repairs made at home, with one's own technician who knows your vehicle's history.

Especially important, is peace of mind you get knowing your car is safe. While no inspection can guarantee a car's performance, it's gratifying to know the proper precautions for a safe trip were taken.

Are Dirty Cabin Air Filters Affecting Your Breathing?

During the hot summer months, contaminants, such as pollen, dust, mold spores and smog, can easily enter your car through the A/C, heating and ventilation systems, making the air in the car six times

dirtier than the air outside, according to the Car Care Council.

Motorists can protect themselves and their passengers from these contaminants by changing their car's cabin air filter annually or whenever heating or cooling efficiency is reduced. Cabin air filters clean the incoming air and remove allergens. This is especially beneficial to people who suffer from allergies.

If your vehicle is 2000 or newer, there is a good chance it is equipped (120 4492) with a cabin air filter.

If your cabin air filter is not replaced on a regular schedule, it can cause musty odors in the vehicle, and over time, the heater and air conditioner may become damaged by corrosion. A dirty or clogged cabin air filter can also cause contaminants to become so concentrated that the air in the car may actually be worse than the air outside the vehicle.