



Summer Time & the Driving is Easy

Did you know that in Southern Ontario, the Vehicle Manufacturers consider our vehicles to operate in severe service conditions. The definition of "severe" conditions can include any of the following:

- Short trips of 7 kilometers or less.
- Towing with your vehicle or carrying a heavy load.
- Severe Dust conditions.
- Hot Weather above 20 Celsius. Or freezing conditions below zero.
- Stop and go conditions.

Extensive idling conditions (being stuck on the 401 any day of the week or going through Timmy's drive thru)

The health of your vehicle depends on the maintenance of these systems under extreme service conditions.

Cooling System:

Maintaining the proper mix of your coolant is very important. Adding too much antifreeze causes the cooling system to lose its ability to transfer the heat away from the engine. A mixture of 50% coolant and 50% water gives you the best efficiency for your vehicle. Checking the PH level of the coolant is also very important. If you have a reading below 7 then the coolant has become acidic and has lost its efficiency and needs to be replaced. New coolant has an alkaline reading of 10.5 to 11.0 for Glycol and 9.5 for Dexcool.

Also check the radiator and cooler lines for signs of corrosion and leaks, the radiator hoses for signs of deterioration and the drive belts for signs of cracking, all which could leave you stranded or cause over heating and serious engine damage if they failed.

Filter System

A dirty air filter can affect your vehicles fuel economy by restricting airflow to the engine. Your engine runs the most efficiently with a ratio of 14.8 units of air to 1 unit of fuel.

A dirty fuel filter may cause driveability problems such as hard starting, stalling or sluggish performance.

If your vehicle is model year 2000 or newer, there's a good chance it is equipped with a cabin air filter. Cabin air filters clean the incoming air to the inside of your vehicle. It is especially beneficial to people who suffer from allergies by removing contaminants, such as pollen, dust, mold spores and smog that enter your vehicle's passenger compartment through the air conditioning, heating and ventilation systems. If the cabin air filter is not replaced, it can cause musty odors and restrict air current inside the vehicle, and over time, the heater and air conditioner may become damaged by corrosion.

Fuel Systems



Electric fuel pumps are most often mounted in the fuel tank, and immersed right in the fuel. The fuel actually helps to cool the pump as well as making it easy to pick up the fuel. Frequently operating your vehicle in hot weather with fuel level below $\frac{1}{4}$ tank, runs the risk of destroying your fuel pump. What you might save, by waiting for fuel prices to drop, you'll lose when you have to replace your fuel pump.

Air Conditioning:

Check for compressor engagement and inspect and adjust the compressor drive belt as well as clean collected debris from the condenser fins. Clean the evaporator if you experience a musty odor when your air conditioning is operating. While this is not critical for engine performance it is critical for occupant comfort.

If you have any questions regarding these recommended services, please feel free to call or drop by and talk to us. We would be more than happy to discuss any automotive questions with you. Call today and book your appointment.