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Tips on what's behind those noises



Few things can be as unsettling when behind the wheel as a sudden noise. Noises coming from a car can indicate a host of issues, and that's one reason why such sounds tend to be so different.

Quickly identifying what's behind car noises can make for safer driving and potentially save drivers substantial amounts of money.

Noise: Rattling coins
Problem: Loose lug nut in a hub cap

This noise can be loud and unsettling, but the good news is that it's often a simple fix if addressed immediately.

The automotive insurance experts at Geico note that a noise that sounds like

coins rattling around in a dryer is likely a loose lug nut in a hubcap.

The lug nut might have become loose if a wheel was not tightened sufficiently after a recent maintenance appointment or even if drivers changed a tire on their own.

The longer drivers wait to address this, the more dangerous and costly it could become, as it could have an effect on the wheel bearings. If addressed promptly, the damage is likely minimal.

Noise: Squealing on start-up
Problem: Issue with the serpentine belt

A squealing noise at start-up is among the more annoying noises a driver can hear. This sound is often indicative of a

worn or damaged serpentine belt, which connects the crankshaft to the alternator, power steering and additional components.

Thankfully, a worn down serpentine belt is a relatively inexpensive repair, though it's important that it be addressed promptly. Squealing at start-up also could indicate a loose tensioner, which is designed to keep the serpentine belt at a certain tightness and tension, or wear and tear to the belt due to parking outside.

These issues can be addressed by readjusting or replacing the tensioner or replacing the serpentine belt, particularly if the part is old.

Noise: Engine knocking
Problem: Various issues

A knocking noise from the engine typically sounds like repeated tapping. The noise will often become louder as the vehicle accelerates.

Various issues can be behind the knocking sound, and drivers should avoid self-diagnosing the problem, even if they've experienced it in the past with the same or a different vehicle.

Some drivers hear knocking because they're using 87 octane fuel instead of the high-performance and more expensive fuel the owner's manual recommends (this could be more of a common problem recently given the fuel prices).

Another potential cause of engine knock could be problems with the pistons or crankshaft.

Regardless of what's causing engine knocking, drivers are urged to take their vehicle to a mechanic promptly, as the cost of repairs is likely to rise the longer knocking goes untreated.

Some DIY vehicle maintenance jobs

The cost of owning a vehicle has risen dramatically in recent years and on top of that, prices at the gas pump have done much to stretch drivers' budgets.

Though it's certainly not an inexpensive time to own a vehicle, drivers can take solace knowing that these basic vehicle maintenance tasks can be performed at home and save them money.

Change air filter

Among the simplest DIY vehicle maintenance tasks, changing the air

filter on a car or truck requires no special tools.

Changing an air filter can be done in as little as 10 minutes, though novices might need more time until they get a feel for what's under the hood.

Vehicle owners' manuals can indicate where the air filter is and how frequently it should be replaced.

Change wiper blades

Changing wiper blades is another simple DIY task that doesn't require any special tools. Streaking is a telltale sign blades should be replaced, and some blades even start to come apart after excessive wear and tear.

The time it takes to perform this

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

On the ROAD

2023-24 FALL/WINTER
 AUTOMOTIVE CARE GUIDE

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above: No one wants to hear noises coming from their vehicles. However, such noises should be addressed promptly, as the quickness of drivers' responses could make the difference between a simple, less costly fix and a more time-consuming, expensive repair. **on the cover:** Autumn has arrived and winter won't be far behind so drivers are reminded to take care of importance vehicle maintenance and be prepared for changing conditions.

STOCK PHOTOS *On the Road*

(METRO CREATIVE)



Advanced Auto Clinic inching toward finish line

By Michael S. Hoey
CORRESPONDENT

The new larger Advanced Auto Clinic that is being constructed near Highway 50 and Highway F in the Town of Delavan is inching closer to its grand opening. Several delays have pushed the expected opening from September to November.

Owner Tony Lynn said his absolute deadline for opening is January but he hopes it'll happen much sooner.

Lynn said there have been many challenges in building his new dream. The first challenge was simply choosing a location. Advanced Auto Clinic has been located at 1101 Ann St. in the City of Delavan for almost 20 years but has outgrown that space.

He started looking for buildings to move to before COVID-19 hit but was unsuccessful. He said some buildings were overpriced, some were on property that just wasn't big enough, and others were purchased by someone else before he could pull the trigger.

Lynn looked at property along Highway 50 in the inlet, near the intersection of Highways 50 and 67, and a lot right next to the one he eventually bought. Ironically, the owner of Millennium contacted him to see if he had any interest in their former location on Wright Street about two months after he acquired the land he is now building on.

He also changed directions as he considered his move. Originally, Lynn

was looking to move into and renovate an existing building but said he could not find one that would fit the bill.

Lynn almost gave up when the lot next to the one he purchased was bought by Pinno Builders. He decided at that point maybe his dream was just not meant to be.

When the current property became available, Lynn was skeptical because the asking price was very low. He later found out that was because there were extensive contingencies on the potential use for the property that made it difficult to sell. The owners eventually lifted those contingencies and Lynn purchased it.

Then came the long, arduous process of changing the zoning for the land and going through the governmental processes with three entities – the Town of Delavan, Walworth County and the state. Lynn said town officials were great to work with but it's a long process.

Next came construction delays that have been all too common throughout the industry over the last few years. Lynn wanted a steel building but that did not turn out to be practical, so he's building a wood frame structure. Doors and windows took "forever" to get delivered, subcontractors faced delays that in turn delayed work by other subcontractors, and it took a long time to get utilities out to the site.

Lynn said he wanted to keep the work local, so he contracted with Tanis Construction in Whitewater. He said they

have been great to work with and hire local subcontractors.

Following his passion

Lynn got his start as a technician at Tasch Automotive in Elkhorn for seven years and then, after topping out there, moved on to work for Purcell's for several years. He then took a few years off from the business and worked in another field but never lost the love to work on cars.

That brought him back into the business when he purchased part of Purcell's business and opened his own shop on Ann Street, where Delavan Auto Body is currently located. Three years later, Lynn moved into his business' current location on Ann Street.

A few things Lynn said he noticed before opening his own shop was that auto technicians are often underpaid, overworked, and work in dark, dingy environments. Lynn was determined to offer a better environment. His shop is clean, bright and has lots of windows. He also offers employees bonuses and full benefits. Additionally, Lynn has provided training to his employees over the years.

Continued growth

The new shop will offer an even brighter atmosphere and much more space. The current shop is about 3,200 square feet. The new shop is 20,000.

Lynn, who started out on his own with one high school kid as an apprentice, currently employs 16 and expects staffing to increase to about 25 when the new shop opens.

"We are packed into this building," Lynn said. "We outgrew it years ago and this building does not allow us to expand with the industry."

The new shop will have a training center. Lynn said he has partnered with Snap-On and NAPA to provide auto seminars for technicians and hopes to expand that.

"Technicians learn by doing, not by reading manuals," he said.

Reading hands-on training has gone by the wayside, especially since COVID-19, and with the new advanced vehicles that are coming out – with park assist, adaptive cruise control, and crash detection, for example – continued training is needed. Lynn said the places to get training in the Midwest are few and far between and his location is well positioned between several metro markets.

More space at the new shop will also make it easier to service autonomous vehicles because it takes space to calibrate those systems. It also takes more equipment and tools.

More space may also mean Lynn can become more involved in the community. He already hosts a Deserving Rides car

• CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Various apps can help make driving safer, potentially reducing the number of accidents and fatalities on the nation's roadways.

STOCK PHOTO On the Road

Apps that can make driving safer and easier

It's hard to go anywhere without using or coming into contact with technology. For drivers, that includes their vehicles, which have come a long way since the Ford Motor Company's Model T was first introduced more than a century ago.

Devices and driving are now undeniably intertwined. Preoccupation with technology when behind the wheel can pose a threat to motorists, as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that more than 3,100 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted driving in 2020.

But technology also can be utilized to great and positive effect.

Various apps can help make driving

safer, potentially reducing the number of accidents and fatalities on the nation's roadways.

- **OneTap** was designed to put an end to distracted driving. Once enabled, the OneTap app blocks incoming alerts on drivers' phones and automatically replies to let individuals calling or sending messages that drivers will get in touch when they reach their destination.

Drivers can manually activate the app each time they get in their vehicle or set it up so it automatically activates when the car begins moving. The latter approach can be especially useful for drivers who may forget to activate it when getting in their cars.

- **DriveMode** was designed for drivers

who want a hands-free messaging and calling option while behind the wheel.

The app utilizes voice-enabled commands so drivers reply to messages or texts using only their voice, and it also can be integrated with navigation, music and voice assistant apps. Drivers can choose to have the app launch automatically when they start driving.

- **OtoZen** can appeal to any driver looking to be more safe and can be especially useful for parents of young drivers.

Users can track family and friends with the app's GPS tracker that can share location information in real time.

Incoming messages are delivered through users' car speakers, and speed

alerts notify drivers when they exceed safe speed limits.

- The **OnMyWay** app automatically disables apps when vehicles are moving faster than 10 miles per hour. That functionality eliminates phone-related distractions like incoming text messages.

But the hands-free component of the OnMyWay app allows users to make phone calls, use navigation apps and even play music.

Modern vehicles are testaments to technological innovation. Drivers can use that to their advantage by utilizing various apps designed specifically to reduce distracted driving.

(METRO CREATIVE)

DIY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



task could depend on how long it takes to remove the old blades, which can take time until DIYers get a handle on how to quickly remove them.

Oil change

According to Bankrate.com, the average cost of a top service oil change at six nationwide franchises exceeded \$75 last year.

But this relatively simple task can be performed at home rather easily.

Drivers will need to invest in a ratchet, oil filter wrench, oil pan, and funnel, but that's all they need to change their own vehicle oil.

A jack will be necessary as well, but most new vehicles come with one.

Tire inflation

Drivers can save on that costly fuel by keeping their tires properly inflated at all times. Poorly inflated tires make the engine work harder to get the vehicle down the road, and that extra work wastes fuel.

A portable tire inflator can read the pressure in each tire and drivers can then inflate the tires to the PSI recommended in their owner's manual. A quality tire inflator can be purchased for less than \$100.

(METRO CREATIVE)

Novices may be overcome by nerves when attempting these jobs for the first time, but online tutorials can help them get a handle on any task that stretches their abilities to the limit. If the task seems too tall to tackle at home, take the car to a trusted mechanic or dealership.

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Tips for first-time electric car buyers

Narrowing options a good place to start

Electric vehicles are widely touted as the vehicles of the future. Despite the growing availability of such cars in the present day, for many drivers EVs remain a novelty. That means buying an EV for the first time is a wholly new and unique experience.

Tesla EVs might be the most visible electric cars on the road today, but most major auto manufacturers, including Nissan and Chevrolet, produce EVs as well. That means auto buyers have more EV options now than ever before, which can make the process of buying such a car more exciting, but also more difficult.

Narrowing down a growing number of options may not come easy to first-time EV buyers, who can keep these tips in mind as they begin this exciting journey.

CHECK OUT CHARGING

Get an idea of the accessibility of charging stations around your home. The number of public charging stations is on the rise, but there's still a lot of work to be done in this area.

In fact, research from McKinsey and Co. indicates that nearly half of consumers in the United States indicate that battery or charging issues are their foremost concerns about buying EVs.

The automotive resource Auto Trader notes that most electric vehicles have enough battery range to cover more than the average daily commute in America.

But drivers who hope to use their EVs as their everyday cars that take them to work and help them run errands and get around town should confirm there are enough public charging stations to make that possible.

LOOK INTO SUBSIDIES

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy notes that all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars purchased new in the past several years may be eligible for a federal income tax credit. State and/or local incentives also may apply.

CONSIDER PARKING

Homeowners who own single-family homes with a garage that can accommodate at least one vehicle can easily charge their EVs so long as they clear space in the garage where the car can be parked.

Auto Trader notes that some garages may need to be upgraded with a level two charger, and that can be expensive.

Drivers who must park their EVs outdoors overnight should know that this, too, may require some additional funds for electric vehicle service equipment.

Local building codes may govern the installation of such equipment, which is best performed by an electrician.

These are some additional costs of EV ownership that first-time buyers must consider and research before they switch to an electric car or truck.

(METRO CREATIVE)



EVs may become the new normal over the next several decades. But before that day arrives, first-time EV buyers must consider a host of factors as they shop around for an electric car or truck.

STOCK PHOTO On the Road

5 things driving interest in EVs

If you think you've been seeing more plug-in cars on the road or hybrid vehicles in the carpool lane lately, you are not imagining it. A recent Deloitte report found that high fuel prices, combined with lower maintenance costs has EV interest poised for continued growth among U.S. consumers.

Hankook Tire's latest Gauge Index took a closer look at what's driving interest in EV and hybrid vehicles:

GAS PRICES

Perhaps it is the obvious answer, but the high prices at the pump are among the biggest incentives for those looking to make the switch from a traditional gas-powered or internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle to a hybrid or EV.

Gauge reports most Americans (51%) find spending less money on gas as the most appealing benefit of EVs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Other drivers are more environmentally minded in their decisions: nearly a quarter (24%) say the environmental impact of an EV is the most appealing reason for them to switch.

According to the EPA, electric vehicles typically have a smaller carbon footprint than gasoline cars, even when accounting for the electricity required to charge them.

EVS CAN GO THE DISTANCE

Technology advancements have given EVs a leg up when it comes to distance – though many drivers (51%) still underestimate how far one can travel on a full charge.

On average, an EV can go about 250 miles on a single

charge. And considering the average household travels approximately 50 miles on a typical day, according to the Federal highway Administration's latest National Household Travel Survey, that makes EVs a strong option for most.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS

There are specific maintenance considerations for EVs, but the benefit for many is that maintenance typically costs less than for an ICE vehicle – up to 30% lower!

However, Hankook found that many drivers will need to brush up on what those particular maintenance considerations are before they make the switch – only 29% know that EVs have different maintenance requirements to their gas-powered counterparts.

Similarly, only 22% of drivers know that if you are aiming for optimum performance, EVs should use tires designed specifically for EVs. (On the bright side, 82% are aware that there is a difference between a hybrid and an EV.)

PLENTY OF OPTIONS

The growing popularity of EVs also leads to growing options – whether you prefer to drive a sedan, coupe, SUV or light truck, there's an EV option for you.

The EPA notes that there are currently more than 50 plug-in hybrid and electric vehicle models on the market, with vehicle class options likely to continue expanding in coming years. So for those seeking alternate options, there are plenty to go with!

And here's a fun fact for those considering a personalized license plate for their EV – Hankook found the two most popular vanity plates for EVs are CHARGEME (26%) and OUTOFGAS (24%).

(BPT)

Questions to ask when shopping for a vehicle

From seeking more fuel efficiency or seating capacity to replacing an older or less reliable car, there are many reasons to be in the market for a vehicle today.

Whatever the reason may be, when it comes to purchasing, there are a variety of factors to consider to make it a smart decision. After all, since the average American drives thousands of miles per year, buying a car is a major decision that can be made easier with a thoughtful approach.

To help in your vehicle search, consider asking yourself these questions:

Where should I buy?

Determining who to buy from can play an important role in the overall experience. And there is no shortage of options, like traditional dealerships, online retailers, individual sellers or rental car companies that offer pre-owned vehicles for sale.

Buying from a seller you trust can pay big dividends when it comes to peace of mind. Consider how well you know the seller in this scenario because making a big purchase from them could strain the relationship, particularly if the vehicle has issues shortly after taking ownership.

If buying from a retailer versus an individual, consider how long they have been in business and if they have an upstanding reputation, especially when it comes to providing exceptional customer service.

Additionally, who you buy from can impact if you'll need to negotiate on price, which not everyone enjoys doing. Some dealers offer "no haggle" pricing, meaning the price listed is the price you'll pay, or price transparency, which means the vehicle price, taxes, fees and other costs are clearly labeled and presented upfront.

Will I be purchasing a reliable vehicle?

No matter who you buy from, ensuring that you are buying a high-quality vehicle



Buying a car is a major decision that can be made easier with a thoughtful approach. Used cars can be purchased from traditional dealerships, online retailers, individual sellers or rental car companies. Do your research before shelling out your cash.

STOCK PHOTO On the Road

is of the utmost importance. Do your research before signing on the dotted line, and always conduct a test drive if you can.

Some dealers also offer additional benefits to help protect a purchase. For example, all vehicles purchased through Enterprise Car Sales are "Enterprise Certified" and pass an inspection by ASE-certified technicians.

These vehicles also come with a 12-month/12,000-mile limited powertrain warranty, 12 months of roadside assistance and offer a seven-day return policy.

How soon do I need a different vehicle?

Today, lead times to obtain vehicles can

vary widely. For example, wait times for a "build-to-order" car – that is, a car custom-ordered from a factory – may last up to 12 weeks with some lead times lasting six months to more than a year.

On the contrary, many used car sellers feature inventory that is readily available, so you can select from options that you know are in stock, including different makes and models with a wide range of different features.

If you need a vehicle now, purchasing a used car could be a faster option.

How do I want to purchase the vehicle?

Purchasing a vehicle today can be done in a variety of different ways. Choosing a seller that matches your buying preference is something to consider.

Buying a car in person remains a common option, but vehicles today can also be purchased in many states without ever stepping foot inside a dealership. There are hybrid purchasing models as well. For example, Enterprise Car Sales customers have the option to begin their purchase online and finalize it at one of the many Enterprise dealerships across the U.S. if they choose.

"There are several considerations to keep in mind when shopping for a vehicle today, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach," said Mike Bystrom, vice president at Enterprise Car Sales.

"One thing is certain – regardless of how or where you choose to purchase, you shouldn't have to compromise on receiving great customer service," Bystrom added.



Several factors should be considered before shopping for a different vehicle, including who to buy from, how soon it's needed and what type of financing a potential buyer is comfortable pursuing.

STOCK PHOTO On the Road

(BPT)

How drivers can handle unsafe driving conditions

The chance to take in idyllic landscapes and sun-soaked views is a big part of what makes road trips so appealing.

When traveling during certain times of the year however, even everyday trips and from work or on a shopping outing with friends can prove challenging when the weather turns.

Prior to embarking on a trip – farther down the road or close to home – travelers can't be blamed for getting caught up in the sights they're on the cusp of seeing or sometimes, the conversations taking place in the vehicle. But it's equally important that drivers take steps to prepare for unsafe driving conditions.

Even if the forecast is nothing but sunny skies, driving conditions can suddenly take a turn for the worse. The following are a handful of unsafe conditions drivers may encounter on the road, and what they can do to make it through such situations safe and sound.

Bad weather

Bad weather can include anything from snowfall or driving rain to dense fog. Though it's wise for drivers to consult the weather forecast prior to hitting the road, no forecast is 100% accurate, which underscores the importance of knowing what to do when conditions suddenly take a turn for the worse.

If inclement weather appears unexpectedly, slow down and be sure to leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

The automotive analytics firm J.D. Power notes that many experts recommend drivers double the cushion between their vehicles and the ones in front of them when driving in rain, snow, sleet, and other adverse weather conditions. Doing so can help to offset the slower brake time that occurs when driving in bad weather.

Aggressive drivers

Aggressive driving or road rage is a significant issue, more so than some drivers may recognize. A recent survey from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that nearly 80% of drivers expressed significant anger, aggression or road rage behind the wheel at least once in the previous 12 months.

The insurance experts at Geico recommend that motorists who encounter aggressive drivers do their best to stay away from them.

Consider safely changing lanes, gradually slowing down or even exiting the highway. Geico advises stopping, as that can lead to potentially dangerous confrontations.

Debris

Road debris can include anything from materials that get blown away from roadside work sites to items that fall off other vehicles. The suddenness – and the potentially serious consequences – of being hit by or striking debris is why a proactive approach is ideal.

Avoid tailgating so you have ample room to maneuver should anything fall onto the road. It's also important to leave room on the side of your vehicle so you can swerve out of the way.

On especially long road trips, share driving duties so whoever is behind the wheel is fresh and alert. Alertness improves reaction time, making it much more likely drivers can avoid debris.

(METRO CREATIVE)

The open road has its hazards, from changing weather conditions to coming upon sudden debris in the road. But drivers who know what to do when encountering adverse conditions can ensure trips are safe, whether traveling to the office, on a shopping outing with friends, or a road trip vacation.

STOCK PHOTO *On the Road*



ADVANCED AUTO CLINIC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

giveaway each year and has a history of helping youth sports teams and the high school automotive program. He said he has always wanted to host a car wash for the football team but doesn't have the space on Ann Street.

Giving back to the community has always been important to Lynn because he loves the community. He said many people are anxious to get out of Delavan but he can't think of a better place to live.

Sharing space and future plans

Lynn's wife Debbie is also opening a massage therapy business called Sweet Zen in the new building. Lynn said they had always talked about how nice it would be to work close together.

They initially looked into having two buildings constructed on the site but determined one was more practical. Debbie has been working out of their home the last couple of years.

In the future, Lynn hopes to expand his training center and potentially build a truck center on the portion of land that's not currently being developed. Lynn said there is a market for medium duty truck servicing and the new shop will have four bays devoted to that. If that goes well, he may build a truck center down the road.

Lynn also plans to keep the shop on Ann Street open for regular services like oil changes, tires, and brakes. He said he surveyed his customers and found that

many of them would prefer to continue coming there rather than fight through all the stop lights to get to his new location.

Lynn said he may one day consolidate the two locations if business ends up gravitating to the new shop and it reaches a point where keeping the current shop open no longer makes sense.

"The timing was right to expand – our community is expanding so rapidly," Lynn said. "I am excited," he added. "I think the community needs it."



As fall gives way to winter, drivers can take several steps to keep their cars running strong and safe in the cold, snowy months ahead.

STOCK PHOTO *On the Road*

How to prepare your car for winter

Summer and fall can stake their claim as road trip season, and even devoted drivers may admit that winter is generally a less desirable time to take to the open road.

The elements factor heavily into that reputation, as fewer hours of daylight, snow and ice are just some of the variables that can make it less enjoyable, and potentially more dangerous, to drive in winter.

In anticipation of adverse driving conditions, vehicle owners can take various steps to prepare their cars and trucks for winter.

Upgrade wiper blades

Perhaps nothing is compromised more than visibility when driving in winter compared to other times of year.

Snow makes it hard to see when driving, but fewer hours of daylight also can affect visibility. In fact, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that approximately half of all fatal crashes occur between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., even though the number of drivers on the road during those hours is considerably lower than it is during the daytime.

The difficulty of driving at night is even more significant when wiper blades are not up to the task of keeping rain and snow off drivers' windshields.

Prior to winter, inspect wiper blades and upgrade them, if necessary. Streaks left on a windshield are a telltale sign that blades need to be replaced.

Purchase winter tires

Winter tires may not be necessary in regions with relatively mild winters. However, drivers accustomed to winters marked by heavy snowfall and/or icy roads should

consider replacing their existing tires with winter tires.

Many newer vehicles are now equipped with all-season tires, which the tire experts at Bridgestone note provide great performance but are not designed to handle extreme winter conditions like snow and ice.

Winter tires are specially designed to handle such conditions, making them a worthy investment for drivers who live in regions where it's not unusual to encounter snow and ice throughout the winter.

Study up on oil

Some vehicle manufacturers recommend different grades of oil depending on the range of temperatures a car or truck will be driven in.

The owner's manual will likely indicate if the manufacturer recommends using a different type of engine oil in especially cold temperatures. Even if the manual does not include such a suggestion, drivers can seek the advice of a local mechanic.

Schedule a tuneup

Even if a vehicle is not due for a tuneup, it can be wise to have it looked over by a local mechanic before the arrival of harsh winter weather.

A mechanic can check the radiator, hoses and other components that could be affected by especially cold weather in the months to come.

If any issues are found, address them immediately. After all, it's better to be proactive than leave yourself vulnerable to breakdowns or other issues once the mercury drops.

(METRO CREATIVE)

Reasons for a check engine light

Modern vehicles utilize various technologies to ensure drivers remain as safe as possible behind the wheel. Technology also can alert drivers when their cars are in need of examination, and such is the case when the often dreaded "check engine" light comes on.

While a check engine indicator is seldom good news, it may not mean that expensive repairs are right around the corner. The following are six reasons why check engine lights come on and how to remedy these situations.

Faulty/loose gas cap

A faulty gas cap is one of the reasons a check engine light might turn on. A cap that is not tightly closed or one that is poorly sealed enables vapors to escape, which can trigger the light. Opening the gas cap and then resealing it tightly may help; otherwise, a replacement cap may be necessary.

Faulty sensor

Sometimes there is nothing wrong with the engine or other components, but the light sensor itself. The check engine light might come on because its sensor is corroded or not working properly.

Oxygen sensor failure

The oxygen sensor sends data to the vehicle's computer, which it uses to create the right mix of air and fuel to enter the engine's cylinders. The check engine light may come on when the sensor fails or registers a problem with the fuel/air mix.

Ignition coils and/or spark plugs

A check engine light may come on to warn drivers it is time to replace spark plugs and/or ignition coils. According to DigitalTrends, ignition coils generate the electricity needed for spark plugs to ignite the fuel and air mix in the cylinders. Worn coils or fouled plugs can cause any number of issues, including engine misfire.

Catalytic converter issues

The catalytic convertor heats up hydrocarbons and other emissions so that they turn into carbon dioxide and water vapor to help protect the environment, offers AutoZone. The converter usually does not fail on its own, but a mechanic can help diagnose what might cause the failure.

Electronic powertrain controls

Vehicles are large computerized devices with an array of sensors and modules that run powertrains. Any issues with these sensors, networks or modules can trigger the check engine light.

Depending on the make and model of a vehicle, a check engine light may require less urgency than a flashing light. It always helps to consult with the owner's manual to help determine issues.

Automotive retail stores and mechanics can connect the car's computer to diagnostic equipment that will issue a diagnostic trouble code that can serve as a starting point to address check engine light issues.

(METRO CREATIVE)



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