



LOVE YOUR CAR

AW124463

How to pimp your ride

LOVE your car?

If so, follow these simple steps to add a bit of personality to it.

1. Know your budget. There's nothing worse than knowing what you want to do but not having enough money.

2. If your car has a few dents/scratches make sure you get rid of them before you start on the paintwork and the like.

3. Pick a colour. Metallic blues and oranges are usually popular choices.

4. Install a performance muffler. This will add sounds to the engine and will cost about \$200 and can be installed yourself.

5. Coloured rims and headlights add a bit more intrigue to your car.

6. Don't forget about the inside of the car as well as the outside. Re-upholster the front and back seats.

7. Make sure you clean and wax your car regularly. This alone will help to keep the standard of your car at a high level.

8. Sound systems. There's nothing better than a decent sound system pumping out your favourite tunes. Simple but effective.

9. Tinted windows. Not only provide you with a bit of privacy but also cut back on the heat being trapped inside the car on those hot summer days where shade is at a premium.

And finally, don't forget about insurance. If you're spending all this time and money to make your car look good, you need to be insured and there's a variety of insurance companies.

They'll ensure your car is kept in as good condition as possible.



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LOVE YOUR CAR

Keeping your vehicle in pristine condition

LOOK after your car by doing most, if not all of the following...

- Check your oil regularly. Only top up with the correct type of oil as specified by your manufacturer and when topping up your oil don't exceed the maximum recommend level.
 - Check your tyre pressure. Inflation should be checked every fortnight when tyres are cold to the recommended pressure found on the owner manual.
 - Power steering. Check your power steering fluid regularly. Specific locations as to where to check fluid can be found on the car owner manual.
 - Car battery. Check battery terminals regularly to ensure they are clean and tight.
 - Lights are critical for vehicle safety. Electrical components including horns and window demisters need to be checked as well to ensure correct operation on a regular basis.
 - Check you lights regularly to ensure they work correctly. Only use the recommended globes, this information can be found in your owner's manual.
 - Check your radiator. Only inspect your cooling system when the engine is cold. Never remove the radiator cap when the engine is hot. Check coolant level regularly. If it requires regular topping up there may be a leak in the system.
 - Brakes are one of the most important parts of a car which should be checked regularly. Squealing brakes, grinding on your rotors or unusual vibrations may indicate your brakes need replacing.
- Another sign of worn brakes is poor brake performance and always ensure that your vehicle's brake fluid is full.



RIGHT: Check your oil regularly.

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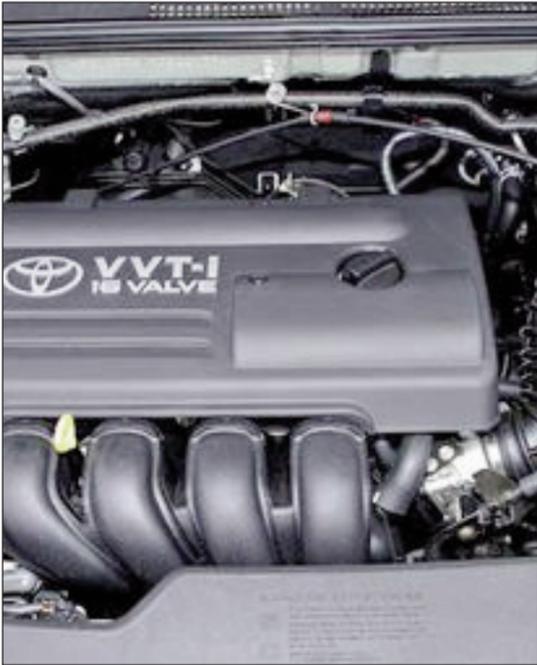
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LOVE YOUR CAR



Benefits of regular services



Engine checks are carried out.

REGULAR servicing prolongs the life of mechanical components, helps to maintain road-worthiness and contributes to greater reliability, economy and resale value.

Without regular servicing you increase the potential of breakdowns and expensive repairs. Refer to your owner's manual for maintenance information specific to your car. You should service your new car as often as is outlined in your owner's manual.

For older cars, you need to have at least an oil and filter change every six months or 10,000km, whichever comes first. All cars have different service requirements but a service should at least contain:

- An engine oil change,
- An engine oil filter

replacement,

- A safety check.

A safety check would include operation of lights, condition of tyres and exhaust and operation of brakes and steering. It's a good idea to wash your car often, polish it at least twice a year and vacuum it as required.

Avoid parking under trees (especially ones with birds) or in industrial areas, which may contain heavy fallout.

To avoid paint damage, foreign matter such as bird droppings should be cleaned off immediately.

What is usually covered in a full car service?

A full car service at a garage of mechanic may include oil change (engine oil, brake fluid, etc), changing air

and oil filters and spark plugs, wheel tuning and balancing, tyre change and outer body conditioning.

Full service at a car wash indicates that in addition to the basic washing of the car, the interior glass will also be washed and the seats also cleaned and vacuumed seats.

What are the benefits of regular servicing?

A car's full service history is a process which takes place before buying a used car.

The buyer should ask to see the car's service book, to see if the car has been serviced on time and according to the instructions of the manufacturer and if your potential buy has the required full service history.

This history shows that the

previous owners took proper care of the car; therefore, it is more likely to be reliable.

The more the car was serviced the better it was taken care of and should be in better nick.

How often should I get my car serviced?

You should get your car serviced every six months.

People often believe only the amount of kilometers (kms) driven is all that matters, but a quick read of almost any vehicle's service schedule should help towards clearing things up - 15,000 kms or every 6 months.

Some newer cars will tell you when they need their next service.

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Seven myths about cars

NRMA has identified the seven common myths about cars, and wants to fill you in on the truth.

1. Keep your doors unlocked so you can be rescued easier in an accident.

Unlocked doors are more likely to open during a collision and create opportunities for occupants to fall out.

2. Let your engine warm up for several minutes before driving.

What was once good advice for cars back in the day, it is less so today because modern engines warm up more quickly when they are driven.

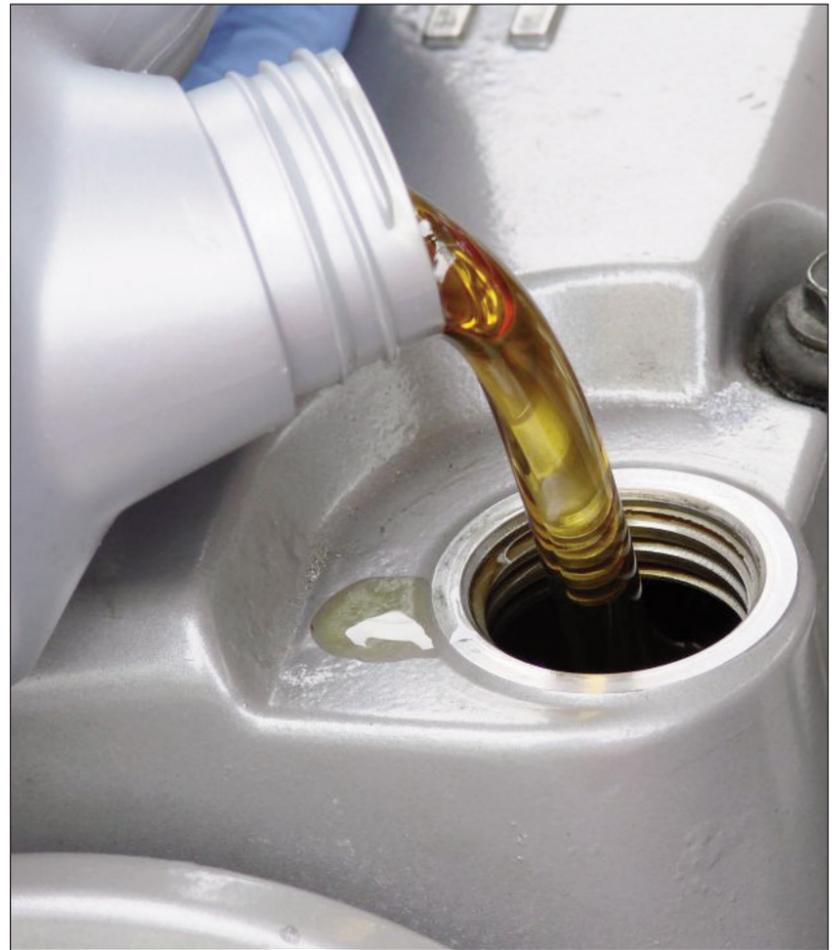
3. Laundry detergents make a good car wash. You wouldn't use car-wash to clean your clothes, so you shouldn't use laundry detergents to wash your car.

4. Premium fuel is the best for your car. It doesn't hurt but it doesn't improve the performance of your car either.

5. You can go a long way on 'empty'.
6. Constantly repair your car, even if it doesn't need it.

The old adage, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' rings especially true here - there is no use repairing your car on things that may need repairing 'later down the track.'

7. Engine oil should be changed every 5,000kms. For more information visit <http://www.nrma.com.au>



Oil checks and changes are done during a service.

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