

## **April is National Car Care Month**

The Car Care Council reminds motorists to follow **10 basic maintenance procedures** to make sure their vehicles are running at peak performance for the summer driving season.

1. **Check all fluids**, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.
2. **Check the hoses and belts** to make sure they are not cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or showing signs of excessive wear.
3. **Check the battery** and replace if necessary. Make sure the **connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free**.
4. **Check the brake system** annually and have the brake linings, rotors and drums **inspected at each oil change**.
5. **Inspect the exhaust system** for **leaks**, damage and broken supports or hangers if there is an unusual noise. **Exhaust leaks can be dangerous and must be corrected without delay.**
6. **Schedule a fuel system cleaning** to help the engine deliver the best **balance of power and fuel economy** and produce the lowest level of emissions.
7. **Check the heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system**, as proper heating and cooling performance is critical for interior comfort and for safety reasons such as defrosting. This includes checking the Cabin Air Filter.
8. **Inspect the steering and suspension system** annually including shock absorbers, struts and chassis parts such as ball joints, tie rod ends and other related components.
9. **Check the tires**, including tire pressure and tread. Uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.
10. **Check the wipers and lighting** so that you can see and be seen. Check that all interior and exterior lighting is working properly and replace worn wiper blades so you can see clearly when driving during precipitation.

“Whether you visit a professional service technician or do it yourself, a thorough vehicle inspection this spring can help **keep your car safe and dependable** and help you **avoid much higher costs down the road** in the form of more extensive repairs or lost resale value,” said *Rich White*, executive director, Car Care Council.

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the “Be Car Care Aware” consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.

**This article compliments of Kehoe Automotive Center --- 630-668-6530**