



# IMM Auto Service Newsletter



430 South Price Road, Tempe, AZ 85281 480 967-7805 [www.IMMAutoService.com](http://www.IMMAutoService.com)

*Servicing Most Imports and Many Domestic Vehicles Since 1972*

## Save \$31,000.00

October 2009

Did you know that according to an article in CNN Money, by keeping your car for 15 years or 225,000 miles, you could save nearly \$31,000.00 when compared to the cost of trading your car for an identical new model every five years?

CNN Money calculated this cost comparison based on a Honda Civic EX, traded every 5 years. This figure includes depreciation, taxes, fees, insurance, and an interest rate of 5% on the approximately \$20,500.00 that would be saved over the cost of properly maintaining the vehicle. It also takes into account a 3 percent inflation rate over that time period.

**Of course, in order to get this kind of mileage the car has to be well maintained.** Following are some maintenance

guidelines to follow if you find this kind of savings appealing.

### Maintenance vs. Repair

Repair is, of course, fixing something that is broken or has already failed. This usually involves a lot of inconvenience, as cars never break at a good time.

If your car breaks on the road and simply won't go any more, then this usually results in lost time at work, or wherever you were going, along with the expense of a tow truck and getting a ride home, in addition to the needed repairs.

Worse is when something breaks that causes serious engine damage that can

mean, in addition to the tow truck and inconvenience previously mentioned, thousands of dollars of repairs, or perhaps even the necessity to go shopping for another car. This is pretty bad, but there is even a worse scenario.

**The worst case is either it breaks down at night when you most need it to get you home, or it breaks in a way where you lose control, resulting in an accident or a death.**

Properly maintaining your vehicle can minimize your exposure to any of the above scenarios.

Maintenance means properly anticipating, to the best degree possible, the potential causes of a breakdown, and taking the steps

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necessary to prevent it.

Maintenance usually starts with following the manufacturer's recommendations that are found in your owner's

manual. There are, however, many other maintenance items, not mentioned in your owner's manual, that should be considered if you wish to

get the maximum life and safety from your car.

Following are some of the common failure items that should be replaced on a regular basis.

We know you have lots of choices for auto repair. Thank you for choosing IMM Auto Service!

## Thermostat

A faulty thermostat can cause a whole array of problems that can damage your car before you are aware of any problem.

Some of the symptoms of a faulty thermostat are:

- Check engine light
- Heater that is not as

hot as it should be.

- Poor gas mileage
- An engine that wears out prematurely and starts smoking
- Overheating that causes engine failure.

I'm sure you don't

want any of these symptoms to happen to you. Once any of these symptoms appear, you are already doing damage to your engine.

Therefore, we recommend that thermostats be replaced every 60,000 miles for longer engine life.

## Fluid Changes

### Engine oil

Everyone is familiar with the need to change engine oil. The oil loses its lubricity, and acid buildup and contaminants cause it to lose its protective properties. Newer cars, due to design changes mostly for better gas mileage, require special oil that meets certain manufacturer's specifications. Not using the proper oil can cause your engine to wear out prematurely. We currently stock at least 6 different types of engine oils in many different viscosities to ensure you get the longest life out of your engines. We also make different service interval



recommendations based on the needs of your engine.

### Transmission Fluid

Once again due to design changes in transmissions, the fluid specifications have changed. Using the wrong or inferior fluid can lead to premature failure. Check your owner's manual for the proper service interval.

### Coolant

Due to acid build up which attacks the entire cooling system, conventional coolant should be replaced every two

years, and the long life fluid should be replaced every three years to prevent system damage & save you money.

### Brake Fluid

Brake fluid is hygroscopic, which means it absorbs water. Not only can this water boil and reduce your stopping power, it is also corrosive to the brake components. Since ABS systems can cost thousands of dollars, it is wise to change your brake fluid every 2 years or every 24,000 miles.

## Timing Belts

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Belts can be pretty confusing. Sometime we, and car manufacturers use terminology that may not make a lot of sense, so here's the deal:

**Timing Belt:** This is the belt that typically will cause the greatest amount of damage should it fail. This is a toothed belt that turns the camshafts and is driven by the crankshaft. It keeps the camshaft turning in proper time with the crankshaft to open

and close the valves in proper relationship to when the pistons are in the up or down position. What happens when this belt breaks is that a piston may be coming up when a valve is held open, resulting in a collision between the piston or pistons and valves. This at the minimum bends the valves, and in some cases causes the engine to break. As



you might guess, this can cost thousands of dollars. We will make recommendations based on mileage and time to keep this from happening to you! It is also best to replace the pulleys and water pump at the same time since the failure of any one of those components will lead to the failure of the belt. *As you can see, having this replaced on time is critical to your car and your wallet.*

## V-Belts

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This belt has been used on automobiles almost since cars were first invented. It is so named because if you were to cut it and look at the cross-section, it would be in the shape of a V.

These belts should be replaced

every 30 to 40,000 miles, or if

**It is good procedure to replace the tensioning pulley and guide pulleys at the same time . It will save you from paying for a job twice, and the failure of any one of the components has the same consequences as a belt failure.**

they start to show some cracking, whichever comes first. The failure of one of these belts can lead to an overheated engine, loss of power steering, loss of air conditioning, or even a damaged engine.

## Serpentine Belts and Poly-V belts

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Most late model cars use a serpentine belt to drive the accessories. This belt is configured with multiple v shaped grooves, hence the Poly-V name. It has more surface area which increases the amount of traction it provides to turn the accessories (water pump, alternator,

etc.) This enables it to run with less tension which lengthens the life of many of the accessories it drives.

The reason it is called a serpentine belt, is that due to its flexibility, it can be made very long and routed around multiple



components.

On some cars, this is the only belt they have. Loss of this belt can be catastrophic, so all the pulleys that guide it should be replaced at the same time, as a failure of any one of these parts results in a failure of the belt and subsequent damage.



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Quality Automotive Service  
Since 1972



## Prevent Scary Car Breakdowns

It was a dark and stormy night . . . . Don't get caught out in the pouring rain with a broken car. After all, do you want to use the phone at this house? We don't think you should! Please take advantage of our . . .

### *Frightful* Breakdown Prevention Special



*WITCH* includes ...

- Complete Maintenance Inspection
- Test Charging System & Battery
- Check Spare Tire Condition and Pressure
- Check Belts and Hoses
- 50 point courtesy check
- Conventional oil change with up to 5 Qts of Quaker State 10w-30 or 5w-30 and filter
- Consultation about any concerns you may have about your car.

**Special only \$32.95 + tax**

EXPIRES 11/15/2009

If it really is a stormy night, you might wish you had new wiper blades so that you can see well enough to drive right by that house.



We will install a new set of premium Bosch wiper blades for only:

**\$19.95 + tax per pair!**

\*most cars

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