

SUMMERIZING YOUR CAR

Get It Ready for Hot Weather

As the days lengthen and the temperature rises, the sun's burning rays can take their toll on your car. Here are some ways to keep your vehicle humming happily during the summer months.

Check Your Coolant

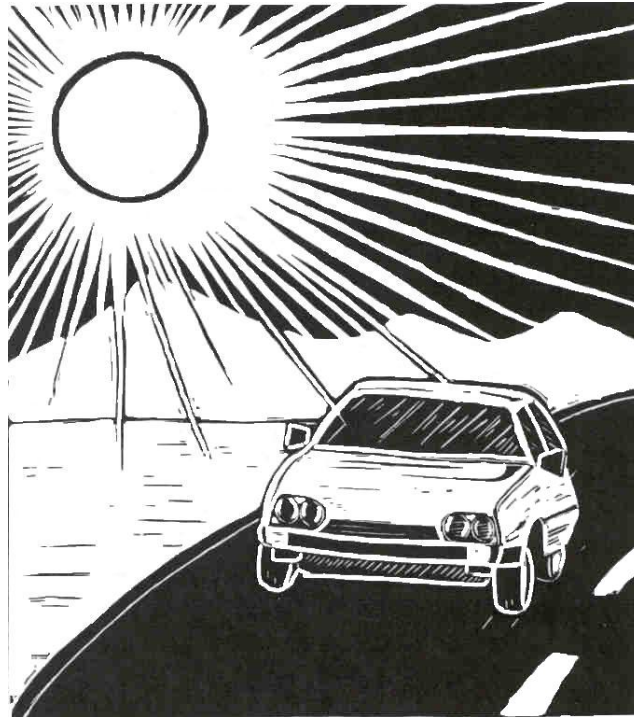
To prevent overheating, check your car's coolant level often and refill with water and coolant as needed. Replace cracked or leaking hoses. Check the fan belt, too.

If your heat gauge flashes a warning while you are driving, try this procedure:

- 1) Turn off your air conditioner to relieve the engine's load and allow it to run cooler.
- 2) Turn off the heater and fan. This draws heat from the engine compartment.
- 3) Pull off to the shoulder of the road, well out of traffic. Race your engine to increase fan speed and move more coolant through the coolant system.
- 4) If the engine is still hot, turn it off and raise the hood. Try starting the engine again in 15 or 20 minutes. If it is still overheated, call for help.

Check Your Tires

Tires take their worst beating during late winter and early spring. Early summer thus becomes an ideal time to align your wheels. Tire pressure is another consideration. Since warmer weather increases air pressure within tires, it may be necessary to use less air. Consult your tire dealer or service station on pressure recommendations during hot weather.



Temperature changes cause the metal to contract and expand, thus loosening nuts and bolts. Tighten any bolts that seem loose.

Cold weather often prevents us from giving proper care to paint and chrome. Now is the time to get out the degreasing agents, power wash, wax, clean rags and sponges. Clean the undercarriage too—engine, transmission and braking system.

Check the Air Filter

If you cannot see light when you hold the air filter up to the sun, it needs to be cleaned or replaced. Do not

bounce it off the ground to shake out the dirt. This could break the filters. Some filters can be cleaned in a liquid bath. Others need to be blown from the inside out.

Draining contaminants from the fuel tank is another important summer chore. It does not take much to do the job. By draining a gallon or so from the tank, you can rid it of the mud that mysteriously finds its way through the filter cap during the winter months.

De-Bugging

Bugs may be small, but they can cause major problems. Moths have been known to plug up a radiator, with the acid in their remains eating right through it. Clean any areas where bugs have accumulated.

Bugs that have baked on an old paint job can be a nightmare to remove. If your paint is not bug proof, try waxing or some other method of protection.