

Madame Mechanic Presents



Quick guide to

- Extending the life of your transmission
- Finding the Right Mechanic
- Building an Emergency Kit
- What to do if you Break Down
- Why Properly Inflated Tires are Important



Extending Transmission Life by Reducing Heat*

Today's automatic transmissions generate a lot of heat as you drive. That heat is a normal byproduct of transmission operation. Heat is also one of the most common causes for transmission failure. That's why automotive engineers put so much effort into reducing or eliminating that heat. Here are a few things you can do to help reduce heat and extend the life of your transmission:

1. **Avoid Hard Accelerations**—Hard accelerations create a lot of friction & heat in the transmission. Take it easy on the gas pedal: You'll save gas & your transmission's life.
2. **Service the Cooling System**—Your car's radiator also cools the transmission. Heat will damage the transmission long before the engine appears to overheat. A regular cooling system service helps your transmission last longer.
3. **Service the Transmission**—Once a year - Over time, automatic transmission fluids can oxidize and experience something called shear. When that happens, the transmission clutches begin to slip. That slip creates friction, which, in turn, creates heat. Fresh fluid every 15,000 - 20,000 miles can prevent the slip caused by shear, and keep your transmission working properly for years. Service time is when little problems are supposed to be found and fixed - before they become big problems. Our experienced transmission technicians know how to identify problems that show up during a road test or appear in the pan. And they'll be able to make the recommendations necessary to keep those problems in check.
4. **Add a Transmission Cooler**—If you travel a lot in extremely high temperatures, in mountainous terrain, or carry a lot of weight in your car, an auxiliary transmission cooler is a great way to reduce heat and add years to your transmission's life. We can help you find the right one for your car and install it.

*Information courtesy of Automatic Transmission Rebuilders Association

www.ATRA.com

What to do if your car breaks down

Get off the road. Please don't play chicken! The sooner you get off the road, the sooner you'll be out of harm's way:

- If you're in a neighborhood, try to find a church.
- If you're in a downtown area, pull over in a business parking lot.
- If you're on a highway or interstate, pull over on the shoulder. Keep moving until you get to a straight section of the road. Get out & to a safe distance away from your car.

Call for help. If you belong to an auto club, put that membership to use. If you're blocking traffic call 911 and notify the highway patrol. Flat tire? You could change it, but it might be better to call a towing service —especially if you're stopped on the interstate.

Take a deep breath. This is not the time to panic. Close your eyes and take a few calming breaths. Seriously. Conscious breathing is scientifically proven to reduce stress. You'll feel confident and in control after you calm down.

Let people know you're stuck. Pop your hood, turn on your emergency lights, and hang a towel or plastic bag out of your window. If it's dark light some flares so other drivers can see you. No flares? Buy a pair. Do everything you can to get the attention of a police officer or someone who might be able to help you.

Expect the best (prepare for the worst). Invest in a first aid and roadside emergency kit just in case your car ever breaks down.

Make an Emergency Kit for Your Car

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car including:

- First Aid Kit: plus -necessary medications, baby formula and diapers if you have a small child
- Jumper cables: might want to include flares or reflective triangle
- Flashlights: with extra batteries
- Food: non-perishable protein rich foods like nuts and energy bars
- Water: 4-6 bottles of water
- Basic toolkit: pliers, wrench, screwdriver
- Pet supplies: food and water
- Radio: battery or hand cranked
- Cat litter or sand: for better tire traction
- Shovel, ice scraper
- Clothes: warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket and an extra change of clothes
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Charged Cell Phone: and car charger
- Toilet paper, baby wipes & rags

***information from www.Ready.gov**

Finding the Right Mechanic Saves you Money!

- Get a referral from a trusted source (friend, neighbor, relative)
- Look for a clean facility –Nice waiting room? Kids' area, clean restroom?
- Only use certified mechanics –the certificates should be posted in the lobby –look for ASE (Automotive Service Excellence), AAA, ATRA (Automatic Transmission Rebuilders Association)
- Verify that they need permission before any work is done.
- Just get in your car & leave if they:
 - Are scruffy, smelly, rude or condescending
 - Won't give you a receipt when you drop off your car & pick it up
 - Ask you to pre-pay or pay in cash only
- Get a full explanation of repairs & the cost -they should be able to tell you what your car needs without being condescending or rude
- Trust your gut (it's not called intuition for nothing)
- Call Poway Transmissions and we'll refer you to an expert you can trust!

Why Properly Inflated Tires are Important

- Decreases your fuel economy by 10%, by creating "drag" between the tire &the road
- Reduces the life of your tires by about a year
- Makes handling more challenging, leading to accidents
- More likelihood of tire damage while driving
- Creates more greenhouse emissions & pollutants in the air
- Checking and properly inflating tires on your vehicle is good for your vehicle, your budget and the environment.