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FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL

Automotive Solutions is a leading network of local independent professional automotive repair centres throughout New Zealand, all dedicated to excellent standards of workmanship and service.

It began in the late nineties when a small group of automotive repair centres wanted to ensure that their businesses would remain relative now and into the future.

This not so small group now has 60 members throughout New Zealand, from Northland to Invercargill, and everywhere in between.

Our cornerstones of independence and networking have benefitted our repair centres and their customers. With regular meetings throughout the year, we share best practise in the running of our businesses as well as servicing and repair of our customers vehicles.

Call 0800 791 791
or visit our website
automotivesolutions.co.nz
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WOF

REPAIRS

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www.automotivesolutions.co.nz

COMMON WINTER CAR PROBLEMS AND TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID THEM

From a car that won't start in cold weather to flat tyres and frozen locks, freezing temperatures and car problems seem to go hand in hand. Knowing how to winterise your car for those inevitable freezing temperatures can help save money on repairs.

FROZEN WINDSCREEN WIPERS

Windscreen wipers become extremely vulnerable in cold, freezing weather. Sometimes they freeze to the windscreen, and then the blades tear when the wipers are turned on.

Tip: Make checking windscreen wiper blades part of your regular maintenance.

FAILED SPARK PLUGS

Spark plugs aren't usually considered when doing winter preparation for a vehicle, but they should be. Car engines need more attention overall when the temperatures dip, and older spark plugs can fail when it's cold.

Tip: Spark plugs should be checked or replaced at certain scheduled service intervals.

FLAT BATTERIES

This is one of the most common winter scenarios; AA reports that it's a top reason customers call them in the winter. Batteries lose about 35% of their power when the mercury dips down to 0 degrees. Starting an engine in cold weather can take up to twice the amount of energy as required on a normal day, so it's important for batteries to be ready to take on the cold.

Tip: Unless it's a new battery (less than one year old), have it tested along with the engine's starting and charging functions as part of a pre-winter check-up.

UNDER-INFLATED TYRES

Flat tyres are never fun, and that's particularly true in cold weather. But changing temperatures cause fluctuations in tyre pressure: a temperature drop of 7 degrees will drop about 4 PSI from a tyre, which could be below recommended pressure. That affects things like traction, handling and the overall life of the tyre, which is why it's so important to check tyre pressures regularly.

Tip: Call into your local Automotive Solutions member to make sure your tyres are properly inflated.



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DEVICE USE WHILE DRIVING

Did you know it's illegal for a driver to:

1. Hold and use a mobile phone at any time while driving or waiting in a queue of traffic, at an intersection, or at traffic lights.
2. Create, send or read any type of message while driving.
3. Email, use social media, video call, browse the internet, play games and take photos or video while driving.
4. Perform any other activity not specifically listed while holding a mobile phone and driving, including use of the phone for navigation or to play music.

These functions are only permitted when legally parked, meaning the vehicle is stopped safely and is not in the flow of traffic.

The penalty for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving is \$150 and 20 demerit points.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU SERVICE YOUR CAR

Despite conflicting information from various sources, the answer to this question is actually quite simple. Follow the factory recommended maintenance schedule in the owner's manual or service booklet for your car and read the fine print.

Mileage-Based Service

Older cars have service intervals based on mileage. There are usually two different maintenance schedules, one for cars driven in "normal" service and another for those used in "severe" operating conditions. The exact definition of severe conditions varies with the car manufacturers, but it usually involves operating your car under one or more of the following conditions: **(which are pretty much what we all do).**

- Primarily short trips (10kms or less)
- Extremely hot, cold, or dusty climates
- Sustained stop-and-go driving
- Carrying heavy loads or towing a trailer.

Maintenance Reminder Systems

If you drive a newer car, it probably has an in-vehicle maintenance reminder system that makes mileage-based schedules obsolete. In-vehicle maintenance reminder systems take a number of vehicle operating conditions into account and provide an alert on the dash when it is time for an engine oil change, fluid level checks, component inspections and other car maintenance services. If your vehicle has one of these systems, trust it to guide your maintenance visits.

However, if you don't put many miles on your car, most car manufacturers recommend an oil change service every 12 months, **(even if the maintenance reminder hasn't come on).**

Call into your local Automotive Solutions member for further advice on servicing your car.

WINTER RECIPE

PUMPKIN SOUP



Recipe from www.dish.co.nz

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon each ground cumin and curry powder
- 850 grams pumpkin, skin and seeds removed, chopped into 2cm pieces
- 1 large agria potato, peeled, thinly sliced
- 1 carrot, peeled, grated
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- Sea salt and ground pepper
- 1/4 cup smooth almond butter

To Serve

- 1/2 cup cream; parsley, toasted sunflower and pumpkin seeds.

Instructions

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and add the onion, garlic, ginger and spices and cook for 5 minutes. Add the pumpkin, potato, carrot and stock. Season generously and bring to the boil.

Reduce the heat. Cover and simmer, partially uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are very tender - 20-25 minutes.

Take off the heat, add the almond butter and, using a stick blender, blend until smooth.



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