

DRIVING IN EXTREME HEAT

THE IMPORTANCE OF CAR MAINTENANCE & SELF PREPARATION

Extreme heat can have as much of an impact on your vehicle as extreme cold. Hot weather is more than just discomfort in a stuffy car: it can cause serious problems for drivers. Preparations should be made before driving in extreme heat and vehicle maintenance is the most important.



VEHICLE MAINTENANCE & DRIVING TIPS

• CHECK YOUR FLUIDS

Vehicle problems from hot-weather can be prevented by regular monitoring your vehicle's fluids. The fluids to be checked include: coolant, engine oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, power-steering fluid, washer fluid.

• BELTS AND HOSES

Have a professional mechanic check your vehicle's belts and hoses. Intense heat can cause cracking, blistering, and other damage to your belts and hoses and they may need to be replaced.

• BATTERY

Extreme summer heat on an old vehicle battery can be a recipe for trouble. Avoid an expensive repair by having your battery tested or, if necessary, replaced. The cost of a new battery will likely be less than getting a dead battery serviced if your vehicle breaks down.

• STICK TO MAIN ROADS

Main roads are typically better maintained than country roads, and are better equipped to handle extreme heat. Just remember the importance of maintaining your tyres —the last thing you want is a tire blowout on the highway.

• TYRE PRESSURE

You should check your tyre pressure regularly, for example, each time you visit the petrol station. Your tyres expand when exposed to heat, so keeping them at the proper pressure will ensure that your vehicle doesn't suffer from any issues.

• EMERGENCY KIT

An emergency vehicle kit is always important, but in both winter and summer, it becomes particularly crucial. It should be kept somewhere safe and easily accessible, with the following items inside: jump leads, tow rope, torch, first aid kit and water - for you and your vehicle.

• KEEP THE INTERIOR COOL

Having the interior of your vehicle cool is as important as your engine coolant. Before the extreme summer months hit, ensure your air conditioning is working properly. If your vehicle has a cabin air filter, have it inspected - and, if needed, replaced - so you can get the most out of your cooling system.



GOOD TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Let people know your journey plan before you travel.
- ✓ Carry plenty of water with you.
- ✓ Carry a mobile phone charger.
- ✓ If you have a spare tyre, make sure it is properly inflated.
- ✓ Plan your journey: look at traffic, roadworks and weather.