



Preventing Costly Auto Repair

A busy women's guide to car maintenance
Part 1-Essential Fluids

Preventative Maintenance

- Performance
 - Auto repairs are inconvenient – take time from business and leisure
- Economy
 - A well maintained car is reliable and runs more economically
- Safety
 - Poorly maintained cars compromise your safety



Maintenance Schedules Vary

- The maintenance schedule for your car is determined by the manufacturer and varies depending on the make and model of your car.
- Consult your owner's manual for the specifics for your vehicle, or sign up on our website for your personal car care page. It will provide you with the services and service intervals recommended for your car.

<http://www.pitcrewautocare.com>



Scheduled Maintenance

- Your car requires fluids -
 - Engine Oil
 - Transmission Fluid
 - Coolant
 - Brake Fluid
 - Power Steering Fluid
 - Windshield Washer Fluid

There are other fluids not covered in this presentation



Engine Oil

- Engine oil
 - cools, cleans, lubricates, and seals the internal engine components. Clean engine oil is gold in color, while dirty engine oil is black in color.
- Cost of Neglect \$1,500 - \$4,000
- Cost of Oil Change - \$29.99 – \$79.99
 - Service Interval 3,000 – 7,000 miles
 - After about 3,000 miles dirty oil starts to lose its ability to lubricate properly. Clean engine oil has better cooling, cleaning, lubricating, and sealing properties than dirty oil.

[Video on how to check your oil level](#)

5 minute video



Transmission Fluid

- Automatic and manual transmissions have fluid to cool, clean, lubricate, and seal internal components.
 - Clean automatic transmission fluid is pinkish-red.
- Cost of Neglect - \$1,500 - \$4,000
- Service Required
 - Fluid flush about every 15,000 miles or once a year, check your car care page or manual for transmission flush intervals

[How to check your Automatic Transmission Fluid](#)

2:02 minute video



Coolant

- Coolant (antifreeze) comes in various colors: the most common are green and red.
 - The main job of the coolant is to keep the engine cool; an overheated engine causes very expensive repairs
- Cost of Neglect \$2,000 - \$4,000
- Service Recommended
 - Have hoses and belts checked and check your car care page or manual for fluid flush intervals

[How to check your engine coolant](#)

1:12 minute video



Brake Fluid

- Brake fluid provides hydraulic pressure to the braking system. It improves the car's stopping ability
 - Brake fluid is almost clear in color.
- Cost of Neglect
 - Your safety – taking care of your braking system ensures that your car will stop when needed – \$500-\$1,500
- Service Required
 - Brake pads should be check for wear level. Check your car care page or service manual for fluid flush intervals

How Brakes Work –

1 minute video



Power Steering Fluid

- You may hear a growling noise when you turn the steering wheel when the fluid is low.
 - Power steering fluid can be clear gold or red-
- Cost of Neglect
 - Few hundred to a few thousand dollars
- Service Required
 - check your car care page or service manual for fluid flush recommendation intervals

[How to Check the Power Steering Fluid Level](#)

2:38 minute video



Windshield Washer Fluid

- Windshield washer fluid is usually blue in color. It is specially formulated so it does not freeze.
 - Do not confuse with the antifreeze fluid – the cap on the windshield washer reservoir usually has a windshield icon
- Check your Wiper Blades
 - The wipers should be soft and without cracks. If the wipers are streaking or skipping across the windshield they need replacing.
- Cost of Neglect
 - Safety - unable to clean your windows when needed requiring an avoidable stop or unable to see well on a rainy day.

[How to replace your wiper blades](#)

1:21 minute video

[How to check your washer fluid](#)

:51 minute video

