Be Car Care Aware™

WELCOME to the world of CAR CARE
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Taking care of your car or truck is integral to ensuring your vehicle is safe and reliable. Scheduling regular maintenance and service checks also reduces both your long and short-term costs, helps maintain your vehicle’s value, and can help protect the environment.

If you are not familiar with your vehicle, its various parts and systems and what servicing is required, then maintaining your vehicle can seem overwhelming.

Manufacturers build and design vehicles with scheduled maintenance requirements that are specifically developed to ensure the make and model of your vehicle operates optimally and remains safe and dependable.

As a further tool to help you navigate the world of car care, Be Car Care Aware (BCCA) has prepared a comprehensive and easy-to-use checklist to help you plan and understand the service requirements needed to keep your car operating safely.
SERVICE INTERVAL Schedule

Unsure of what parts of your vehicle you should have checked? Here are some general guidelines to help you keep your machine running smoothly.

**Check monthly**
- Interior and exterior lights
- Tire inflation and tread condition
- Windshield washer fluid level

**Check every 6 months or 7,000 kilometers**
- Chassis lubrication
- Coolant (antifreeze)
- Finish (rust, scratches, dents)
- Power steering fluid level
- Transmission fluid level
- Wiper blades

**Check every 12 months or 20,000 kilometers**
- Battery and cables
- Belts
- Brake system
- Cabin air filter
- Engine air filter
- Exhaust system
- Hoses
- HVAC system
- Steering and suspension

**Other Checks**
- Dashboard indicator lights (always keep an eye out these lights, especially if flashing)
- Engine oil and filter (check your owner’s manual)
- Spark plugs (check your owner’s manual)
Though the schedule provides a guideline to help you oversee your vehicle maintenance needs, the owner’s manual contains specific maintenance requirements for your car’s make and model. Your driving type and vehicle usage can also affect the maintenance intervals, again making following the manufacturers recommended schedule the go-to resource for all vehicle owners.

While some of the checklist items are simple enough to do yourself, others require the use of a certified technician. It’s a good idea to have your vehicle inspected in the spring and fall to make sure that your car remains reliable and safe.

Car Care Month in May and Care Safety Month in October are part of the BCCA program to help remind you when to have your inspections completed.
DIY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Here is a detailed list of items that you can easily inspect through visual checks:

LIGHTS
- High and low beam headlights both in function and aim
- Parking lights
- Turn signals
- Tail Lights
- Brake lights
- Side marker lamps
- High mount brake lamps

*It’s a good idea to have someone help you out with these checks; ask someone to stand outside the vehicle while you test your lights. Have them look for burnt out bulbs or distorted/weak light to determine whether any of your bulbs or covers need replacing.

FLUIDS/LUBRICANTS LEVELS
- Coolant/antifreeze
- Engine oil (if equipped with a dipstick)
- Transmission fluid (if equipped with a dipstick)
- Windshield washer fluid

*Check your owner’s manual for instructions on how to check these fluids/lubricants and always let your engine and radiator cool first.

ELECTRICAL
- Battery
- Battery connections (make sure that these are tight)

*In some newer vehicles, the battery is not easily accessible. If you can see your battery, keep an eye out for any corrosion on the battery or battery terminals.

TIRES
- Pressure
- Tread Depth
- Surface condition (look for bald spots and bulges on the surface of the tire)

*The condition of your tires can have a big impact on the safety and efficiency of your vehicle. Your car’s recommended tire pressure should be located on your door post and in your owner’s manual.

OTHER
- Paint condition (Check for chips, nicks and dents in the bodywork and remove any excess dirt)
- Chips in the windshield (have any chips fixed as soon as possible to prevent cracking)
- Horn
- Mirrors
- Seat belts/buckles
- Windshield wipers (check for cracks or tears)

When in doubt, have your service technician take a look and schedule regular appointments to ensure your vehicle is running at its top operating condition.
About
Be Car Care Aware

Be Car Care Aware is an education program that provides you, as a Canadian car owner, the information you need to make knowledgeable decisions on regular vehicle care, maintenance and repairs during the four distinctive Canadian seasons.

The program focuses on the importance of vehicle maintenance to:
• keep you and your family safe on the road;
• reduce the emission of harmful greenhouse gases; and
• help you save money by driving your vehicle longer.

Resources

Be Car Care Aware has many resources and tools you can access to learn about regular maintenance and repairs. From car care tips to guides, articles, and information, Be Car Care Aware is here for you.

For more information on why regular preventative vehicle maintenance is important in keeping you and your loved ones safe on the road, you can find BCCA online at www.becarcareaware.ca.