

Preventive Maintenance Tips

Properly maintained vehicles pass the emissions test many times more frequently than poorly maintained vehicles. In an effort to help St. Louis area motorists in the city of St. Louis and Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, and St. Louis counties keep their vehicles running properly, the Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program provides these preventive maintenance tips. By following a regular preventive maintenance routine, vehicles remain in proper running condition and operate more efficiently. Efficiently operating vehicles are more economical in fuel usage and help protect air quality in the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area. The recommended minimum maintenance intervals are listed by miles or time, whichever comes first, based on an average of 12,000 miles driven per year. Please refer to the vehicle's owner manual for exact maintenance requirements as determined by the vehicle manufacturer.

Item	Check (every)	Item	Check (every)
Air Conditioning		Engine	
Clean condenser grille	3,000 miles or 3 months	Oil/Lube/Filter	3,000 miles or 3 months
Check for leaks at connections	3,000 miles or 3 months	Check/adjust valve clearance	12,000 miles or 12 months
Check/adjust compressor belt**	3,000 miles or 3 months	Ignition System	
Replace compressor drive belt**	24,000 miles or 2 years	Replace spark plugs*	18,000-30,000 miles
Battery		Check spark plug wires*	12,000 miles or 12 months
Check/clean terminals and cables	3,000 miles or 3 months	Replace distributor cap/rotor*	12,000 miles or 12 months
Battery service	yearly or as needed	Check/adjust ignition timing*	12,000 miles or 12 months
Brakes		Power Steering	
Check brake fluid master		Check pump fluid level*	3,000 miles or 3 months
Cylinder fluid level	1,000 miles or 1 month	Replace drive belt**	24,000 miles or 2 years
Replace brake fluid	at least every 2 years	Check drive belt tension**	3,000 miles or 1 months
Cooling System		Starter and Alternator	
Check coolant level	1,000 miles or 1 month	Check electrical connections	3,000 miles or 3 months
Drain/replace coolant	12,000 miles or 12 months	Check/adjust drive belt	3,000 miles or 3 months
Check condition of radiator hoses	1,000 miles or 1 month	Replace drive belt	24,000 miles or 2 years
Check condition of radiator cap	1,000 miles or 1 month	Transmission	
Clean radiator of debris	1,000 miles or 1 month	Automatic	
Radiator maintenance	flush every fall	Check fluid level/condition	every 30,000 miles
Radiator and heater hoses	60,000 miles or 4 years	Manual	
Emissions and Fuel Systems		Check clutch master cylinder	
Clean crankcase breather*	12,000 miles or 12 months	fluid level*	6,000 miles or 6 months
Replace air filter	12,000 miles or 12 months	Clutch flush*	yearly or as needed
Replace fuel filter	12,000 miles or 12 months	Check PVC valve	12,000 miles or 12 months
Replace drive belt*	24,000 miles or 2 years		
Check air pump belt tension*	12,000 miles or 12 months		

* Denotes items that may not be applicable to all vehicles

** Most modern accessory drive systems use one serpentine belt rather than numerous individual belts. New drive belts will stretch with use. Recheck the tension on a newly installed belt after 200 miles.

"Preventive Maintenance Tips" is adapted from the "Under Hood Maintenance Intervals" list available at www.icarumba.com and "Ask an Expert – Preventive Maintenance" list available at www.askanexpert.net. This has been designed as a generic reference for minimum vehicle maintenance intervals. It is recommended that motorists first consult their owner's manual for exact maintenance requirements specific to their particular vehicle. Regular maintenance is suggested to ensure long-term vehicle usage and aid in the protection of air quality in the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area.