



While it isn't technically summer yet, Clarington residents are certainly enjoying the summer-like conditions they've been blessed with so far this year. With the sunshine and heat alerts come summer time road trips, and Car Care Canada is helping out with car maintenance and driving tips for the season.

The 'Be Car Care Aware Family Road Trip Guide' is available online at <http://www.carcarecanada.ca/consumer.cfm?changesection=Consumer> at no charge and helps Canadians prepare their vehicles for Spring and Summer driving and includes tips for saving gas, protecting the environment and ensuring safety, as well as in-car games for kids and meal planning. It also includes the "10-minute Road Trip Check-Up."

Road trips are a great way to enjoy the outdoors and visit friends and relatives. The key to peace of mind is preparation. Deep down, most people know their car should be checked out before hitting the road for the holidays but studies have shown that a majority of people put it off thinking it will take too much time, money and effort. The truth is it takes very little time to determine if the family vehicle is ready for long-distance travel.

To illustrate that point, the Family Road Trip Guide starts with the "10-minute Road Trip Check-Up" designed to help Canadians ensure safety and reliability before loading the family into the family's vehicle.

Car Care Canada encourages Canadians to view the 10-minute investment as a down payment on safety and convenience. It's really a small sacrifice compared to the inconvenience, cost and potential hazards of breaking down many kilometres away from home.

10-minute Road Trip Check-Up

1. Check all fluids: There are several fluids that require attention, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission fluids and windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.
2. Check hoses and belts: A belt that fails can affect the electrical system, air conditioning and

power steering, as well as the cooling system. Cooling system hoses may be deteriorating from within, so old hoses and clamps in marginal condition might need to be replaced.

3. Check the tires: Check tire inflation and also inspect the tread for uneven wear, (indicating the need for wheel alignment). Also look for bulges and bald spots.

4. Check lighting: Check all exterior and interior lighting to identify any problems. Car Care Canada vehicle check-up lanes revealed an overall failure rate of more than 25 percent in the lighting category. When your vehicle's lighting is defective, other motorists may not get the message that you intend to stop or turn. The end result could be disastrous.

5. Check the wiper blades and make sure the windshield wipers are working properly: Keep the reservoir filled with solvent. Worn-out wipers should be checked and replaced if needed prior to a road trip. As a rule of thumb, wipers should be replaced every six months.

Check out the "Go Green! Vehicle Maintenance Tips to Help Save You Money" brochure on the Car Care Canada website at www.carcarecanada.ca that includes potential gas and money savings based on a series of maintenance tasks.

Article courtesy of Car Care Canada

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