



## The Inside Scoop

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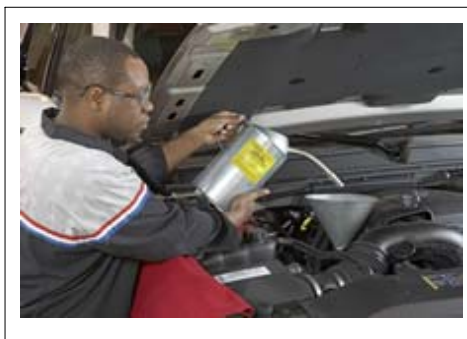
### Fall Trips or Color Tours Without Proper Vehicle Maintenance Could Spell Breakdown

**DETROIT** – Whether it's a journey through the forest to capture its changing hues; a tailgating adventure to cheer an alma mater to victory; or a late trek to the amusement park, fall is becoming an increasingly popular travel season.

In fact, according to AAA, North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, fall travel accounts for 23 percent of all travel nationally. Increasing numbers of travelers are vacationing in autumn when lodging and other costs are generally less than in summer months. The trend toward fall trips is also prompted by more Americans taking extended weekend trips throughout the year, rather than the traditional two-week summer trip, and the desire to travel at less congested times, AAA notes.

AAA's data shows that a family of four taking a fall trek will spend an average \$26.9 per day in fuel, food, lodging and entertainment during September, October and November.

Hit the roads with a poorly maintained vehicle, however, and leaves may not be the only things turning red.



### This Month's Stories

1. [Rainbow Push Names General Motors Automotive Corporation of the Year](#)
2. [The Ad Campaign You Can't Ignore: Chevy Malibu](#)
3. [GM Makes Changes Amongst Executive Ranks](#)
4. [Fall Trips or Color Tours Without Proper Vehicle Maintenance Could Spell Breakdown](#)

"Many travelers spend hours researching destinations, mapping routes and making reservations at the finest inns and restaurants, yet ruin the entire experience with a broken belt or car tire issue that could have been quickly and easily addressed beforehand," said Peter Lord, executive director, GM Service Operations. "Above all, the number one item travelers should pack this fall is a fully functioning vehicle."

Fall check-ups and vehicle repairs are especially important, said Lord, because most

owners have subjected their vehicles to wear and tear through the peak summer driving months, and will soon be putting them through their paces in winter driving.

Lord recommends the following auto repairs be performed before hitting the road in the fall:

1. Check car tires (tread and pressure)
2. Replace windshield wiper blades (summer heat can make them brittle)
3. Fill washer fluid
4. Check coolant level
5. Check oil and change if needed

GM's Oil Life System (OLS) and other advanced technology, has taken the guesswork out of maintaining GM vehicles. Simply pay attention to one small but powerful icon – the OLS monitor indicator – and Goodwrench will take it from there. Customers with one of the more than 20 million OLS-equipped vehicles make keeping a vehicle in good working order more convenient and easier, while saving both time and money.



When the Oil Life System monitor, found on all but a few 2007 GM vehicles, indicates it's time for an oil change service, which is usually far longer than the customary 3,000 miles, the customer visits the dealership. At that time a Goodwrench technician performs the oil change and a Multi-Point Vehicle Inspection to address any other maintenance needs such as brake inspection; tire inflation, rotation or replacement; fluids fills; and lights, wipers, lubes, filter, hoses and belts changes. Depending on each customer's driving habits, they may only need to visit their

dealership twice a year for oil changes and regular maintenance, versus every three months or 3,000 miles.

And if you drive a vehicle equipped with OnStar and sign up for free vehicle e-mail alerts, you'll receive a monthly systems status report and be reminded when it's time to check in for service.

"Life's hectic enough without having to worry about vehicle maintenance, and Simplified Maintenance addresses the most common causes of breakdowns in one visit," said Lord. "Now that we have advanced oil life technology and the 3,000-mile oil change has gone the way of the dodo bird, regular car inspections can keep your vehicle repair needs on track and your vacation smooth sailing."

And, yes, Goodwrench technicians are equipped to service non-GM vehicles, too. Additional travel tips from Goodwrench include:

- Make sure there's a properly inflated spare car tire, jack, lug wrench and other tools for changing a tire.
- Pack a cell phone and a way to recharge it.
- Also: a working flashlight with extra batteries, emergency reflectors, sunglasses and a first-aid kit. Include a placard that says "Call Police" in case of trouble. Emergency kits are available for purchase through GM Accessories.
- Carry a spare set of vehicle keys.
- Don't forget proof of insurance, vehicle registration and medical insurance cards. Birth certificates or passports may be required for travel into Canada and Mexico; check beforehand.
- Leave a copy of travel plans with the route, planned return date and contact information with a trusted neighbor.

- Take prescription information for any medications the family is taking, as well as physicians' phone numbers.

Familiarize those in the vehicle with how the OnStar system works, if the vehicle is so equipped.

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