



# 5 STEPS FOR CARING FOR AN OLDER CAR

Stick to a regular maintenance routine, follow guidelines in your owner's manual and get your car serviced at recommended intervals.

## 1. Purchase a Proven Model



Do your research to choose a reputable car.



Get the best warranty and safety features you can afford.



Negotiate routine maintenance into the cost.



Buying used? Have a trusted mechanic check it out first.

## 2. Get a Good Mechanic



Find a qualified mechanic you trust to be your 'go-to' for repairs.



Have your car diagnosed and repaired at the first sign of a problem.



Use quality, manufacturer-recommended parts.

## 3. Mind Your Maintenance Milestones

Add these preventative checks and changes to your maintenance routine as your car begins to put on the miles.

**EVERY 5000**

**MILES / 6 MONTHS**

- Get a lube, filter and oil change
- Check tire pressure, condition and wheel alignment
- Rotate and balance tires
- Inspect shocks for leaks, cracks, damage or wear

**EVERY 25000**

**MILES / 2 YEARS**

- Change brake pads and fluids
- Flush and change transmission fluid
- Flush and change coolant
- Check and change filters

**EVERY 50000**

**MILES / 3 YEARS**

- Change tires
- Resurface or replace rotors and drums
- Check and change belts (accessory drive, timing, alternator, etc.)
- Change radiator hose
- Repack the wheel bearings
- Flush and change fuel lines



**EVERY 75000**

**MILES / 4-5 YEARS**

- Change battery
- Change water pump
- Check CV (constance velocity) joints
- Change brake lines

## 4. Watch for Warning Signs

Pay attention! Get your car to your mechanic as soon as you notice:

- Unusual tire wear
- Poor acceleration
- Pulling / drifting to one side
- Trouble starting car
  - Idle is rough
  - Leaking fluids



- Engine misfires or surges
- Dashboard indicator lights are on
- Fuel consumption increases
- Car is grinding or shaking
- Unusual noises or odors

## 5. Keep it Clean

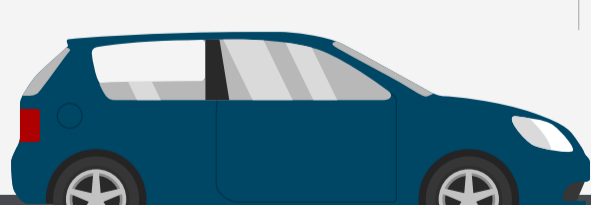
Regular cleaning is as important to protecting and preserving your car as regular maintenance.

### INTERIOR

- Vacuum at least once a month
- Wipe and apply UV protectant to plastic and vinyl surfaces every 3 months
- Park in the shade or use a sun screen
- Have the car professionally detailed

### EXTERIOR

- Park under cover, if possible
- Wash at least once a month
- Wax whenever water no longer beads on the paint
- Remove any snow, salt or water as soon as possible after exposure
- Have a professional sealant / protective undercoating applied



**SHARE THIS INFOGRAPHIC** with your family, friends and neighbors to help them **#ThinkSafe**.

**VISIT**

[travelers.com/tools-resources/car](http://travelers.com/tools-resources/car) to learn more.

### REFERENCES

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