

Basic Car Maintenance Do's and Don'ts

The best way to get the most out of your car—whether it's one you lease or own, or one that's leased for you—is to make sure you take care of basic maintenance. Not only will it extend the life of your car, it will also ensure it runs as smoothly and economically as possible. In fact, the most common reason for breakdowns is the drivers' failure to perform routine maintenance tasks.

“Maintenance Do's”

Above all else, have your oil and filter changed at the proper specified intervals. Many cars—GM models among others—feature a light sensor that tell you when to change the oil. For other models, as specified by Motorlease or the manufacturer, change your oil every 5,000 miles. Keeping up with regular oil changes is the single most important thing you can do to extend the life of your vehicle.

If your vehicle is under warranty, bring it to a dealer of the same make for warranty repairs, to ensure the warranty will be honored in the future. (Routine service may be performed at the garage of your choice, however.) If you're not sure a repair is covered under the warranty, check with Motorlease first.

Maintain fluids at the proper levels.

Check your tire pressure regularly—the experts recommend doing it every few fill-ups. This advice makes sense because you can add air right at the gas station if you need it.

Likewise rotate tires every 10,000 miles (many drivers remember to do it when the seasons change, but this guideline will vary based on how much you drive).

Be alert to the fact that repair shops may want to over-repair. When you take your car in for service, be specific about the work you want done—or you could end up with a lot of unnecessary “repairs”—and a sizeable bill.

Maintenance “Don'ts”

Don't go to a repair facility and simply ask for a “check-up.” Some repair shops see

this kind of statement as a “blank check”—and may recommend work that’s not actually needed.

Don’t ignore your vehicle’s warning lights—if the “check engine,” “hot” or oil light comes on, stop the car and call for help. While the “check engine” light may just mean the gas cap isn’t screwed in tightly, it could also signal a serious problem—and you don’t want to chance it. Taking care of smaller problems now can mean avoiding bigger problems later.

If suspect there may be a problem, or feel like the car isn’t driving properly, give us a call. We’ll help you troubleshoot, and let you know what kinds of problems to look for. Likewise, if you bring the car in for routine service and the garage suggests a repair, it’s a good idea to check it out first with Motorlease. We’ll ask them about the problem they found and help you determine whether a repair is really needed. Above all else, Motorlease is here to help.