



Car Care Tips For Your Ford Exclusively From West Hills Ford

Your Ford is engineered to last for the long haul. But in order to ensure it always takes care of you, you must also take care of it. With thousands of moving parts, it can be difficult to remember every single item that needs servicing.

That's why regular preventative maintenance checkups at West Hills Ford's service department are so important; your vehicle is cared for by the highest trained service technicians using the highest quality, Genuine Ford Parts.

Whether you're a do-it-yourselfer or not, this handy car care tip sheet will help make caring for your Ford a little easier.

Engine

Modern, technologically advanced engines like Hybrid Drive systems require more than just a traditional tune-up. Replacing spark plugs, timing belts, hoses and filters at intervals recommended in your owner's manual will help ensure your vehicle will operate at peak performance.

Every owner's manual comes with multiple recommended service interval schedules depending on where and how much you drive. Follow these recommended intervals to help ensure the reliability and life of your Ford engine.

Motor Oil

Everyone knows the popular old adage "change your oil regularly". It's popular for good reason, especially if you make more frequent, shorter trips with stop-and-go driving.

Engine pistons move up and down thousands of times per second generating enormous amounts of heat, and if oil is not changed at recommended intervals, its ability to dissipate heat is reduced, potentially causing costly damage to bearings, seals and rings.

Ford-branded motor oils and filters are specially designed for Ford engines, and help cool, seal and lubricate your engine to help prevent contaminants and prolong engine life, keeping your Ford at peak performance. Different engines have different oil viscosity requirements, so consult your Ford owner's manual.

Fuel

Lower quality fuels can leave behind harmful deposits which can cause engine knock, power loss, reduced fuel economy and increased emissions. Higher quality fuels and fuel system cleaners protect against these harmful deposits, helping maintain the original performance of your Ford while minimizing emissions.

Equally important to choosing a high quality fuel is choosing the right grade of high quality fuel. Always consult your owner's manual for the grade of fuel recommended to optimize your engine's performance. Never use octane lower than what is recommended by the owner's manual, particularly in newer, high-performance engines.

Brakes

Being able to stop quickly is one of the most important safety aspects of your car, so properly maintaining your braking system is a top priority. Both disc and drum brakes slow your car by creating friction, which causes brake pads and shoes to wear.

Occasionally check the level of your brake fluid by looking at brake master cylinder reservoir. If the fluid is below the fill line, either fill with the proper fluid indicated in your owner's manual or bring it to West Hills Ford. If the fluid has a brownish color and you haven't replaced it in several years, it's time for a brake fluid flush.

If your vehicle is having brake problems, it will tell you; just use your senses. If you see a flashing brake warning light, hear squealing or grinding noises, feel the steering wheel shake, observe a soft brake pedal or require stopping distances longer than normal, bring your car to West Hills Ford's service team immediately.

Tires

Tires help your vehicle maximize handling, braking, stability as well as fuel economy, so it's extremely important to make sure your tires are properly maintained. Inspect the sidewall of the tire for recommended pressure, and measure with a gauge when tires are cold. Remember that the pressure listed on the tire is the maximum, and recommended pressures are usually lower.

Too much air exaggerates handling and stiffens ride quality, while too little air slows handling, reduces fuel economy and prematurely wears tires. To maximize the life of your tires, rotate them according to the recommendations in your Ford owner's manual.

Transmission

Fluid Manual and automatic transmissions are not only different in the way they shift, but they're also different in the fluids they use. Manual transmissions require gear oil while automatics require specifically-designed fluids which operate under hydraulic pressure.

Although they operate differently, both transmissions share something in common – they need to have their oil and fluid changed regularly. By following the service schedule in your owner's manual and only using Ford-branded transmission fluid, you'll help ensure the maximum service life of your

transmission.

Cooling

Coolant, or antifreeze, keeps your engine from overheating in the summertime as well as prevents your cooling system from freezing in the wintertime. It absorbs heat from the engine and helps prevent corrosion from clogging up the cooling system. Check its level periodically and have it changed as recommended by your owner's manual.

Always add coolant by using the plastic overflow reservoir. It has maximum and minimum marker levels, and should only be at the maximum level when the engine is hot. Never add coolant by removing the radiator cap, especially when the engine is hot. Pressurized coolant at near scalding temperatures will shoot out, potentially causing serious burns.

Air Filtration

Your Ford relies on clean air in order to run at optimal performance, and so do you. The best way to ensure both you and your engine get clean air is by replacing both the engine and cabin air filters at recommended intervals. If you live in an especially dusty area or frequently drive on dirt roads, the filters should be changed more frequently than what Ford recommends.

Particles which get past a dirty or old air filter and into the combustion chamber can cause premature engine wear as well as reduce fuel economy and decrease engine performance. Particles which get past your cabin air filter can release contaminants into your heating, venting and air conditioning systems.

If you are on the road and have an issue with your Ford or an urgent question, call West Hills Ford's Service Department.