

GRAEVES
AUTO & APPLIANCE

Family owned and operated
serving Montgomery County
since 1952...

the Shop Rag

A monthly publication filled with industry news, maintenance and safety tips, upcoming events, special coupons, and more!



OBD Testing for Auto Emissions...

Because over 85% of the current vehicle population is now OBD (on-board diagnostics) equipped, inspections will now consist of OBD testing and idle testing; the IM240 dynamometer test has been eliminated. OBD equipped vehicles are not subject to the mandatory gas cap test because the OBD system checks the entire fuel system, including the cap.

The On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) test is required for:

- Model year 1996 and newer passenger vehicles and light duty trucks.
- Model year 2008 and newer heavy duty vehicles up to 14,000 pounds.

The OBD test uses a scan tool to connect to the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostics computer. The connector is usually located under the dashboard. The system is checked to determine if there are emissions control

components that are failing which may cause the vehicle's emissions to exceed allowable limits.

NOTES:

- If the amber-colored OBD "check engine" or similar warning light is illuminated the vehicle will fail the OBD test. If the light is on, you should visit your repair shop before going in for the test.
- If the vehicle has had recent repairs that required the battery to be disconnected, drive the vehicle in a normal manner for one week to reset the emissions monitors before taking the vehicle in for the OBD test.
- The vehicle cannot be tested if the shift indicator is not properly aligned or if the driver's door is not operational.

Other changes include:

Mandatory Gas Cap Testing for Vehicles Undergoing the Idle Test

The gas cap test is a functional check for leaks and proper seal to reduce fuel evaporation, and had previously been advisory only. Vehicles that arrive for testing without a gas cap, or with the incorrect gas cap, will fail the test.



**Graeves Auto & Appliance is a
Certified American Car Care Center**

For more information please visit:

www.graevesauto.com

Revised Idle Test Standards for Certain Model Year Vehicles

The updated idle test standards apply primarily to certain model year light duty passenger vehicles and trucks that had previously been subject to the IM240 test. Idle test standards have been revised for 1991 – 1995 models, reflecting advances in emissions control system design and durability. Some heavy duty standards have been updated as well.

Visit the MD DMV website for a complete list of rules and advice on vehicle admissions:

www.mva.maryland.gov

and click on "Vehicle Emissions" under "MVA Programs" on the left menu.

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Beat the Heat...

The temperatures are rising in the area! Check your cars A/C now, before the heat becomes unbearable.

Things to be concerned about:

1. Odd smells coming from the air conditioning.

This may be caused by bacterial buildups. As your car becomes older, or when the air conditioning system is used infrequently, bacteria, micro-organisms, mold and fungi may start growing, just behind the dash panel on the evaporator causing some very unpleasant odors. This problem can be solved by using an anti-bacterial treatment that destroys the bacteria growth.

2. Blown air that just doesn't seem cold enough.

Your A/C system may just need servicing. The refrigerant gas that is used to operate the system depletes over time - on average up to 15% per year. You may also have a small leak somewhere in the system which can be fixed at your local repair station.



3. Strange noises coming from the air conditioning.

This should be attended to immediately. Some noises could be early symptoms of a compressor failure (the compressor is the air conditioning pump). The compressor is usually the most expensive part on the system ranging from approximately \$230 to over \$600.

4. Excessive moisture inside the car.

This can be fixed easily. Sometimes the drain tube from the evaporator may become blocked or detached allowing the condensation to build up inside your evaporator. If this occurs water will just build up inside your car to a point where there are damp carpets or misting / high humidity type problems. These problems can be solved with low-cost servicing.

NOTE: Do not be concerned about a pool of water forming under your car after using the A/C. This is usually a small puddle that forms under the passenger side of the car. This is a normal feature of the system draining water from the A/C evaporator through a drain tube and onto the ground.

TIPS:

- Have your air conditioning serviced regularly, even if there are no visible problems. An annual servicing of your car's air conditioning system will guard against malfunctions in the compressor and other vital parts of the system.

Keep checking your e-mail and the website for new flyers and specials!

www.graevesauto.com

Tips (con't)

- Normally the refrigerant gas in a car air conditioning system has to be recharged completely within four years from the manufacture date and thereafter every two to three years.
- Running your A/C year round will help maintain the system and keep the system well lubricated and leak tight. This is because the refrigerant actually carries the oil that lubricates the system. It also keeps the seals and hoses moist, preventing them from drying out and cracking which can lead to leaks.

In the Community...



The Olney Police Satellite Station that has been protecting and supporting our neighborhoods and businesses since 1997 is now in jeopardy of being eliminated due to county budget cuts.

To read more and see how you can get involved by voicing your concerns, please visit the Olney Chamber of Commerce website at:

www.olneymd.org

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Do You Know Your Currency?

Match the bill with the name of the historical figure whose face appears on it...

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|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) \$1 | a) Benjamin Franklin |
| 2) \$2 | b) Salmon P . Chase |
| 3) \$5 | c) George Washington |
| 4) \$10 | d) James Madison |
| 5) \$20 | e) Abraham Lincoln |
| 6) \$50 | f) Thomas Jefferson |
| 7) \$100 | g) Grover Cleveland |
| 8) \$500 | h) Woodrow Wilson |
| 9) \$1,000 | i) Ulysses Grant |
| 10) \$5,000 | j) Alexander Hamilton |
| 11) \$10,000 | k) William McKinley |
| 12) \$100,000 | l) Andrew Jackson |

(Answers: 1-c, 2-f, 3-e, 4-j, 5-l, 6-i, 7-a, 8-k, 9-g, 10-d, 11-b, 12-h)