

GRAEVES
AUTO & APPLIANCE

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the Shop Rag

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



Starting Your Car During the Cold Winter Months...

By preparing your car for the bitter cold winter weather, and knowing how to start it will not only make your drive safer, but also protects your vehicle from damage.

Preparation Tips:

- 1) Have the battery and alternator checked before the weather turns bad. Your battery requires more cold cranking amps in the winter than it does during any other time of year.
- 2) Have the antifreeze checked for both pH balance and temperature. An equal mix of water and antifreeze will properly assure the correct pH balance and temperature required for your car. Many cars call for a certain grade antifreeze, and it's important that the right type is being used.

Refer to the fluid specifications chart in your owners manual.

3) Try an alcohol grade dry gas product for your car. Most cars today are fuel-injected, and some might claim adding dry gas is unnecessary, but extreme cold and warming will still cause condensation in the fuel lines and fuel system. Read the labels of the dry gas before purchasing to ensure it is correct for your car and will not harm the fuel injectors.

4) Add isopropyl alcohol to your existing windshield washer fluid or use a winter grade. You will use more windshield washer fluid in the winter, and summer grade fluid may freeze solid in the reservoir. This obviously will not help you start your car, but there's nothing more dangerous than driving when you cannot see properly. Also have your wipers checked for cracks or rips and replace them if necessary.

Starting Your Car:

1) Start your car as usual by turning the ignition key. It might be sluggish to start if the weather is really cold. If unsuccessful, applying a battery



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charger or battery booster might help assist the battery with the necessary cold cranking amps required to start the engine.

2) Allow small intervals between unsuccessful starts for the starter to cool down. Repeatedly trying to crank the engine will rapidly heat up the starter and can easily overheat and damage it.

3) If you are still unsuccessful, step on the gas pedal once or twice to inject fuel into the injectors. Do not continuously depress the accelerator, or you may flood the injectors.

When to Drive:

Once you get your car started, don't rev the engine. The oil in the engine will be very cold, and oil pressures will be very high. When you rev your engine, the oil pressure will increase, possibly damaging some seals in the engine.

Let the car warm up for about a minute, and then you can start driving it slowly. It is not recommended to let your car idle in place for any long length of time - it's best to just start driving slowly. Don't let the RPMs of the engine go too high when the engine is still cold - you don't want to increase the oil pressure too high inside your engine.



Fun Car Facts...

- The first cars did not have steering wheels. Drivers steered with a lever.
- The New York City Police Department used bicycles to pursue speeding motorists in 1898.
- The first speeding ticket was issued in 1902.
- In 1916, 55 percent of the cars in the world were Model T Fords, a record that has never been beaten.
- The first gas gauge appeared in cars in 1922.
- The first car radio was invented in 1929.
- Buick introduced the first electric turn signals in 1938.
- The Peanuts characters were first animated in 1957 for a Ford Fairlane automobile commercial.
- Most American car horns beep in the key of F.
- The automobile is the most recycled consumer product in the world today.



Toyota Recall...

Since last fall, Toyota has recalled some 7.7 million vehicles in the United States, Canada, Europe and China to fix problems that could trigger unintended acceleration in its cars.

This latest accelerator pedal recall comes right on top of an ongoing Toyota recall of 4.3 million vehicles in the United States last fall to fix floor mats that could jam the accelerator pedal and result in runaway acceleration.

Did You Know?

Contact lenses were invented in 1924.

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The most widely spoken language in the world is Chinese (Mandarin).

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While a black cat is considered unlucky in the U.S., it is considered lucky in Britain.

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In field hockey, a player must hit the ball with the flat side of her stick.

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The average human heart beats 100,800 times per day.

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

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