

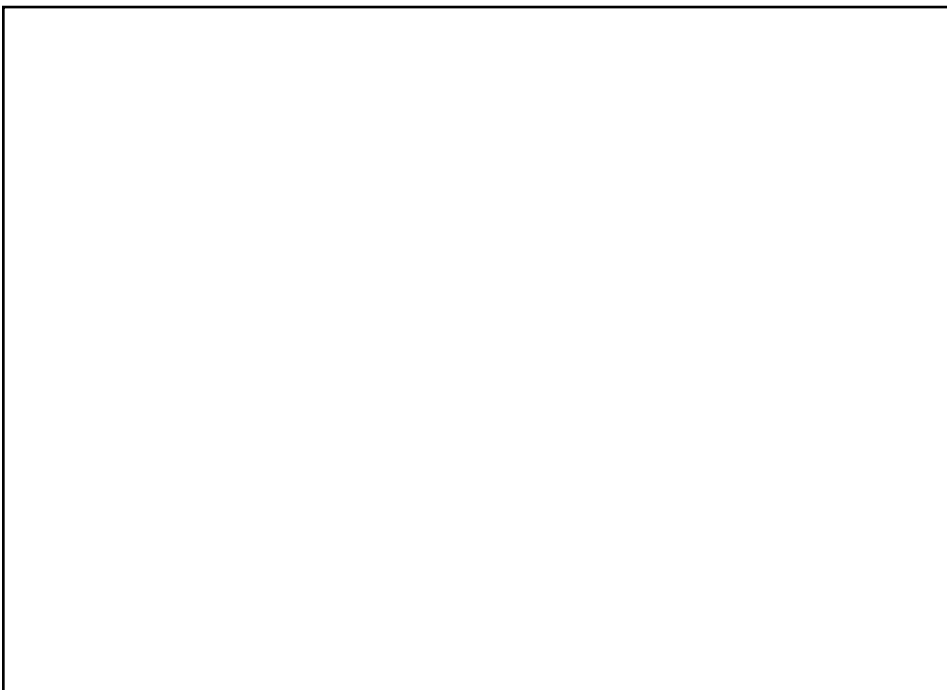
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Supplement to the Tribune



# **Auto Guide**



# Three benefits of selling your junk car

**By Dale Harris**

The day has finally come in which you've decided to get rid of the car that's doing nothing but taking up space on your property.

While it may seem like a huge hassle to get rid of your junk car, we've got some good news for you- you can actually get money for junk cars.

That's right, there are people out there willing to pay money for your old clunker, and you don't need to trick them into doing it either.

But, why should you sell your junk car?

Check out this guide to learn about the top benefits of selling your junk car.

**1. Fast Cash**

Typically, when you sell your car to a junkyard, you'll get cash for it the very same day.

Of course, if your car isn't in working condition, you shouldn't expect a huge payout- usually, you'll get something to the tune of a few hundred dollars.

However, a few extra hundred dollars can go a long way if you're going through a rough time and struggling to make ends meet.

And, the best part is that the money a junkyard pays you is guaranteed. If you were to sell your car privately, you'd have to worry about the check bouncing or about the buyer taking forever to get the money to you.

By selling your car for junk, you can have a wad of cash in your hands the same day your vehicle gets picked up.

**2. Helps the Environment**

This may come as a surprise to you, but selling your car for junk is actually an environmentally-friendly

decision.

By leaving an old car in one spot, you run the risk of potentially hazardous chemicals seeping into the ground. These chemicals can eventually make their way to a water supply, posing a threat to not only humans but to our entire ecosystem as a whole.

By selling your junk car, you eliminate this problem.

Plus, junk cars are often purchased for their metal, and by using recycled metal, this reduces the pollution that's associated with manufacturing and mining new parts.

**3. Easy Removal**

Junking a car is perhaps the easiest way to remove it. All you need to do is call up a local junkyard that advertises cash 4 cars, cash 4 used cars, cash 4 junk cars, and your car will be off your



lot in a matter of days, if not hours.

Junkyards will tow away your car for free, which can also help save you money on removal services.

Plus, once that eyesore is

out of your yard, your whole space will look nicer.

Now that you've read this guide about getting money for junk cars, it's time to get your car out of your space

once and for all.

All it takes is one phone call to a local junkyard company, and you'll be a few hundred dollars richer.

*Article source: articlecity.com*

# Unexpected driving hazards: Don't get caught off-guard



(NAPSI)—The holiday season, with its festive spirit, family gatherings, and vaca-

tion plans, can also include some unexpected driving challenges—but you can still

navigate them safely. Here's a rundown of unanticipated driving hazards of

the fall and winter holidays and how to tackle them.

**1. Distractions Galore:** The holiday season can be distracting with dazzling light displays, roadside decorations, and parades. While they add to the festive spirit, they can divert your attention. Solution? Stay focused. Remind yourself constantly to keep your eyes on the road and be extra cautious in areas with heavy decorations.

**2. Early Sunsets:** With Daylight Saving Time over, it gets dark earlier. Combined with fog or rain, early sunsets can reduce visibility considerably. Be sure your vehicle has fog lights and that all lights are functioning correctly. Avoid high beams in foggy conditions as they can reflect back and impair visibility further.

**3. Increased Traffic:** Holiday shoppers, travelers, and delivery trucks flood the roads during this time. Try to plan your trips during off-peak hours and always factor in extra time. Check traffic

updates before heading out and consider alternate routes.

**4. Unpredictable Weather:** Fall and winter bring a mix of rain, fog, ice, and sometimes even snow. Regularly check tire pressure and tread depth. Ensure wipers are in good condition and use defrosters to keep windows clear. If you're driving in snowy regions, consider investing in snow tires or chains.

**5. Impaired Drivers:** Unfortunately, the holidays see a spike in alcohol consumption, and consequently, impaired drivers. Stay vigilant, especially during nighttime. If you spot a vehicle swerving or driving erratically, maintain a safe distance and consider reporting them.

**6. Parking Lot Perils:** With malls and shopping centers bustling, parking lot incidents increase. Watch out for pedestrians and cars backing out without noticing. Always park in well-lit areas and be patient; rushing can lead to fender benders.

**7. Fatigue:** Between holiday

preparations and long drives, fatigue can set in. Remember, a drowsy driver is as dangerous as a drunk one. Plan breaks during long trips, share driving responsibilities if possible, and consider an overnight stay instead of driving back late.

**8. Wildlife:** Fall and winter are active times for wildlife. Deer, in particular, can be more prevalent on roads, especially during dawn and dusk. Always scan the road ahead and use high beams when there's no oncoming traffic.

The holiday season does present unique driving challenges, but with awareness and preparation, you can get around them. As you celebrate and travel, make safety a priority. After all, the best gift you can give your loved ones is ensuring you arrive safely.

For more driving resources and test preparations, check out <https://driving-tests.org>.

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# Awesome advantages of Teflon coating for your vehicle

By Dale Harris

Nearly 80 million cars sell worldwide yearly. As third world countries like India continue coming into financial prosperity, we expect to see that number continue to rise.

Something that we suspect will also grow alongside car ownership's popularity is Teflon coating.

For the uninitiated, Teflon is a synthetic fluoropolymer that people have been putting over their vehicle's surface for years. Doing so brings several unique advantages that are becoming increasingly relevant as global warming makes temperatures and conditions harsher.

If you've never been introduced to the advantages that Teflon can bring to a car,

keep reading. Below, we break down why you might consider splurging on putting a Teflon coat for your vehicle.

1. Your Car's Paint Will Look Vibrant

While not the most pragmatic of the advantages, it's worth noting that the moment you get your car out of the shop after Teflon has been applied to it, it'll look fantastic.

Teflon has a certain sheen to it that makes your car look like it has been waxed. The big difference is that Teflon is much more durable than car wax which allows cars to retain that fresh look for months as opposed to a few days.

2. Protection Against Humidity

If you live in a humid area, you know the damage that the moisture in the air can

wreak on your car's body. Over the course of years of moisture exposure, rust begins to rear its head which can ruin your vehicle's look, impede its functionality and perhaps even diminish the level of protection that it offers in the event of a crash.

Teflon coating acts as a moisture barrier. When water in the air touches your car's surface, with Teflon there to protect it, the moisture never truly comes into contact with your vehicle which means your potential for rust is diminished if not eliminated altogether.

3. Salty Air Will Have a Lessened Impact on Your Vehicle

There's nothing better than living by the beach. You can take your car on cruises up and down the ocean, you can walk to the water and,

in some areas, pick up a world-class tan whenever you feel the urge to.

Unfortunately, your car doesn't share in your adoration of the beach.

Not only does the moisture in the air cause rust (like we mentioned in our last point) but the added threat of salt blowing around can erode your car's paint. Teflon coating can protect your vehicle against both of those irritants.

4. Teflon Could Improve Your Vehicle's Aerodynamics

Not everyone is overly concerned with how aerodynamic their vehicle is. After all, your focus when driving probably isn't to race with other drivers.

There is also a pragmatic reason as to why an aerodynamic car is a good one though. That reason is fuel

economy.

With gas prices soaring across many parts of the world, Teflon coating allows your car to cut through wind resistance better which could bring down the annual amount of money that you spend on gas considerably.

5. Teflon Buffers Against Hot and Cold Temperatures

When you're driving and it's 100+ degrees outside, your engine is at risk of overheating. When you need to drive and it's below freezing, you're going to have a heck of a time getting your car started.

Teflon can help insulate your car's engine which can keep it at a level temperature when you're facing unforgivably hot or cold times of the year.

6. Your Car Will Have a Much Harder Time Getting Dirty

Do you ever wonder how it is that your car gets so dirty all of the time?

Some people know the answer to that question because they subject their vehicles to things like dirt roads. For the majority of us though, we use our cars to get to and from work and still find that a few days after a wash, they look filthy.

Teflon coating can break that cycle.

Teflon is a non-stick coating which means that dirt and grime will have a much harder time settling on your car. That will reduce the amount of trips that you need to take to the car wash throughout the year which will save you tons of time and a considerable amount of money.

See TEFLON on page 3

## What is your risk of a collision with wildlife?



Vehicles and wildlife can be a lethal combination, so it's important to use safe driving practices and consider auto insurance options.

As the weather gets colder and days get shorter, drivers face a greater risk of collisions as deer and other wildlife migrate from the mountains and unexpectedly dart across roads and highways.

State Farm reports the most dangerous months for animal collisions are, in order, November, October and December.

A paved, rural road with

little traffic and low light is a common scenario to hit wildlife. Results from a State Farm Survey indicate between 30% and 50% of drivers had accidents during those conditions. Additionally, just one risky driving behavior, such as speeding or using your phone, increase the chance of an animal collision by 23%.

"Collisions between vehicles and large animals can cause severe damage and serious injury to drivers and passengers," said Kenton Brine, NW Insurance Council president. "Using caution and staying alert can

save your life and eliminate the need for costly vehicle repairs."

Brine said a standard Auto Insurance policy will pay for damage to your vehicle, less the deductible, if you hit a deer or any other animal but only if you have optional Comprehensive Coverage.

Another optional coverage – Personal Injury Protection, or "PIP" coverage – can pay

medical expenses for the driver and/or injured passengers, regardless of who is at fault in a collision.

According to a 2023/2024 analysis by State Farm, Washington drivers have a one-in-302 chance of hitting a deer, and the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) reports that more than 1,500 wildlife/vehicle collisions are reported annually.

"All drivers are required by law to carry an Auto Liability Insurance policy when they drive, which provides coverage to pay for injuries or damage suffered by others in an accident that is your fault," Brine said. "But to pay for damage to your own vehicle from a collision with wildlife, you'll need Comprehensive coverage, which is an inexpensive addition to your auto policy. It's also wise to consider PIP coverage in case you or others in your vehicle suffer injuries."

NW Insurance Council offers the following defensive driving tips to help you avoid

wildlife while on the road:

- Be attentive from sunset to midnight and the hours just before and after sunrise. These are the highest-risk periods for deer-vehicle collisions.

- Drive with caution when moving through wildlife-crossing zones, in areas known to have large deer and elk populations and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland. Also be aware that wildlife collisions also happen on city arterials and suburban neighborhood streets.

- Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

- When driving at night, use high-beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic and no cars directly ahead of you.

- Brake firmly when you notice deer or elk in or near

your path and stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid an animal and hit another vehicle or lose control of their car.

- If you hit an animal, pull over and call law enforcement to direct you to your next step. Some states have special requirements regarding animal collisions.

- Always wear your seatbelt. T(NHTSA) estimates that seat belts saved the lives of 14,955 people in 2017.

For more information about insurance, contact NW Insurance Council at (800) 664-4942. NW Insurance Council is a nonprofit, insurer-supported organization providing information about home, auto and business insurance to consumers, media and public policymakers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

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# Need a car now? Pro tips for buying a car with bad credit



By Dale Harris

You rely on your car to get you from point A to point B reliably. But what happens when it breaks down and you find that you need to replace it fast?

If you have great credit, it's easy enough to walk into a dealership and buy a new car. But if you're one of 43.4 million Americans with bad credit, it's not that simple.

If you need a car now and can't afford to wait to build your credit up, use these tips to make the buying process

easier.

## 1. Know Your Score When You Need a Car Now

Before you start shopping for a car or looking into financing options, make sure you know your exact credit score.

When you know your number, you'll know what you can reasonably expect when buying a car. The higher your credit score is, the easier it will be to get financing. And the lower it is, the more you'll have to look around to find a good deal.

No matter what your credit score is, it's possible to buy a car. You just have to be patient and willing to keep looking if something doesn't feel right.

## 2. Start Paying Down Debts Immediately

If you've got bad credit, you likely have outstanding debts that are keeping your score down. So, start paying them down as fast as you can.

Take a look at your credit cards, loans, and any other current debts. Continue making the minimum payments on each one, but do what you can to pay more for the debt with the highest interest rate. For most people, this will be a credit card or payday loan.

The more debt you pay off before taking out a car loan, the better your credit score will be. This will help you qualify for a bigger loan and help you buy a nicer car.

## 3. Set a Budget

Remember, you'll still need to pay down your existing debts once you buy a new car. Those costs won't go away. But taking out a large loan can make it hard to keep paying your debts down.

Think about what you can realistically afford to pay towards a car each month. Use an auto loan calculator to estimate how much the car (and the loan) will cost you.

Use that calculation to start browsing for cars that fit your budget. Take care not to look at cars that are more expensive than you can afford. The last thing you want to do is take on more debt than necessary.

This will only lower your credit score further.

## 4. Look for Dealers That Specialize in Low Credit Sales

Heading to the biggest new car dealership isn't always an option when you have

bad credit.

According to Buy Here Pay Here Local, it's in your best interest to find dealerships that work with buyers on any end of the credit spectrum. Otherwise, you could get denied financing and may struggle to find the right car for your needs.

If dealerships typically work with people with low credit scores, they'll be more willing to help you find financing. And they'll be better equipped to help you stick to your budget.

## 5. Offer a Larger Down Payment on the Car

The more you can pay towards the car in cash, the less you'll have to borrow to finance the rest of the purchase. If possible, pay a larger down payment for your car.

If you need to, take a few months to start saving money towards the down payment. There will always

be cars that will fit your budget. But the more you can pay in cash, the better your monthly budget will be.

## 6. Explore Your Financing Options

Many car dealerships offer in-house financing. But that doesn't mean you should settle for the offers they give you. In fact, doing so can force you to pay higher interest rates than you otherwise would.

Think of it this way: if a dealership isn't used to working with low credit score borrowers, they may not have the best options on hand for your budget. They'll judge your finances the same way they would the rest of their customers.

And since the other customers likely have higher credit scores, you'll end up qualifying for a lower loan amount at a much higher interest rate.

Instead, start looking at your financing options before you start looking at cars.

Speak with your local bank, private lenders, and dealerships to see what you might qualify for. You can even get pre-qualified for an auto loan, making it easier to buy the right car as soon as you find it.

## 7. Buy a Car You're Happy With

When you buy a brand new car, the expectation is that you'll want to trade it for a new model in a few years. But when you're buying a car with a low credit score, you probably won't have that option.

If you trade the car in, the price of your old loan gets added to the cost of your new car. This puts you more in debt and lowers your credit score further.

Instead, choose a model you're willing to drive for a long time. This way, you'll be able to pay back the loan and boost your credit score in the process.

Just remember that bad credit makes it harder to qualify for higher loan amounts. Be prepared to buy a car that's functional rather than one that has all the features you could ever imagine.

## Don't Let Bad Credit Keep You From Driving

When you need a car now, it's tempting to rush through the buying process. Take your time and use these tips to help you get the right car for your needs and your budget.

Remember, bad credit doesn't mean you won't be able to get a car. It just means you'll need to be smart about the car-buying process.

Article source: [articlecity.com](http://articlecity.com)

## Teflon

Continued from page 3

### 7. Getting You Car Coated Is Cheap and Easy

Even with all of the benefits that Teflon coating brings to vehicles, if the process of getting your car coated was a hassle, it would be hard for us to recommend.

Fortunately, Teflon coating services are performed at just about any reputable body shop. The cost of getting coated is also good considering how long a coat of Teflon will last you.

Just be sure that the provider you're using is actu-

ally Teflon coating your car when they sell you that service. Some fly-by-night shops claim that they're Teflon coating cars but are just waxing them which doesn't provide the same benefits.

Teflon coating can only help your car if you take the leap and get the job done.

Picking up a coat of Teflon for your vehicle is cheap, easy and provides a bevy of benefits that can improve the look and functionality of your car. Need we say more?

Article source: [articlecity.com](http://articlecity.com)

# Seemingly harmless things that cause horrible car crashes



**By Dale Harris**

Did you know that there are 6 million car accidents each year in the United States?

As if that wasn't scary enough, most accidents are entirely preventable. Chang-

ing a few behaviors can keep you out of trouble.

Certain behaviors might seem harmless but could increase your chances of being in an accident. Avoid these six things to avoid finding yourself in the middle of horrible car crashes.

**1. Cellphone Usage**

It's no secret that texting while driving is bad. It's even illegal in most states.

However, we mustn't glance past other dangerous phone-related hazards. Changing your Spotify playlist, talking on the phone, or checking a notification are every bit as distracting as texting.

Phones are responsible for 27% of all car crashes according to the National Safety Council. It's not worth it, ignore your phone while driving.

**2. Speeding**

Whether you're on the open road and don't see anyone else around or you need to get somewhere quickly, we all speed from time to time. But

that doesn't make it better.

Speed limits are in place for a reason. The faster your vehicle is moving, the less it takes to lose control and the longer it takes to brake.

What's more, a high-speed collision can lead to serious injuries.

**3. Eating**

Drive-thrus can be a guilty pleasure. They're a quick and easy way to grab a bite to eat when you're on the road.

Don't unwrap that burger yet, though. Eating while driving is still distracted driving, and can be every bit as dangerous as speeding or texting.

Your attention needs to be on the road and only the road. Plus, since you'd have to use at

least one hand to eat, you're giving up a ton of control over your vehicle.

**4. Poor Vehicle Maintenance**

Your car needs repairs but you can't afford them yet. But paying a little right now may save you a lot in the future.

Always prioritize maintenance like fixing your brakes, changing your oil, and patching/replacing old and worn tires.

**5. Tailgating**

Following another vehicle too closely — or having someone follow you too closely — is a major risk.

According to research, 47% of people don't know or follow the recommended safe driving distance between vehicles.

**6. Speeding Through a Red Light**

We've all been there. You make your way to an intersection right as the light turns yellow. Thinking you can make it across, you hit the gas hoping to clear the intersection in time.

Shaving a minute or two off of your trip is never worth the risk, aside from the fact that running a red light is illegal. So be patient and follow the law — it might keep you alive.

Horrible car crashes occur every day. But that doesn't mean you have to be the next victim. Stop these six seemingly harmless behaviors before it's too late.

*Article source: articlecity.com*

# Filling up an electric vehicle? It's easier than you think

(BPT) - What's holding you back from buying an electric vehicle? You've likely heard a lot of myths and misconceptions about electric vehicle ownership, especially when it comes to how you fill it up. However, the truth is that charging an electric vehicle can be simple, convenient and cost-effective.

If you're on the fence about making the switch, check out these three fueling myths. With this knowledge, you can separate fact from fiction and make an informed decision about your next vehicle.

**Myth #1: You can only charge an electric vehicle at a public charging station.**

Depending on where you live, you may be concerned about finding public charging stations. However, the reality is that the majority of electric vehicle owners fill up at home. According to a new Ford survey, 88% of electric vehicle owners across the country prefer the convenience and savings of filling up at home with electricity and rarely charge publicly.

If you're concerned that filling up at home will be complicated, don't sweat it. The survey also found that

92% of current electric vehicle owners find filling up at home as easy as plugging in their phone. Once you have a charging station installed in your garage, you can plug in your car at night and wake up to a full tank!

**Myth #2: A single charge won't get you where you need to go.**

Early electric vehicles were limited by range, but newer models have more than enough fuel to get you to and from work, school, the grocery store and more. For example, Ford offers electric trucks and SUVs with over 300 miles of range. If you're skeptical whether that's enough to get you around town, consider this: According to Ford, the average vehicle in America travels more than 150 miles in a day just four times per year. So, if you are planning a longer trip, you might have to stop at a public charging station, but you'll have more than enough for your daily drive on a single charge.

**Myth #3: Charging an electric vehicle is expensive.**

Filling up with electricity is often more cost-effective than filling up with a tank of

gas. In fact, Consumer Reports found that electric vehicle owners spend 60% less to fill up compared to traditional gas-powered cars.

Why? Electricity prices are typically lower than gas prices. Also, electricity prices are more stable than gas prices. As an electric vehicle owner, not only will you avoid weekly or monthly trips to the gas station, but you'll also avoid the sticker shock of fluctuating gas prices.

**Go electric with confidence**  
Are you ready to go electric? If so, check out the new Ford Power Promise.

Ford wants to make electric vehicle ownership easier by directly supporting owners and car shoppers in the areas that matter most, starting with the most important - charging. For a limited time, Ford is offering a complimentary home charger and standard installation, so you can switch to an electric vehicle with confidence. Simply plug in at night, just like you do with your phone, and wake up with a full tank.

The Ford Power Promise also includes:

- Ongoing support and guidance: With 24/7 electric



vehicle support and roadside assistance with proactive charging support, Ford has your back.

- **On-the-road charging:** Ford makes charging on the road easy, now with access to more than 15,000 designated Tesla Superchargers with the available Fast Charging Adapter.

- **Battery confidence:** Ford offers an 8-year, 100,000-mile warranty on its electric vehicle batteries.

To learn more about Ford electric vehicles and the Ford Power Promise, visit [FordPowerPromise.com](http://FordPowerPromise.com).





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## Tips to ensure cool weather safety and visibility

(Family Features) There's a chill in the air, leaves are changing colors and falling from trees and there are more porches decorated for the seasons ahead than the eyes can see. The changing weather also means shorter days and longer nights where visibility becomes critical from sunset to sunrise. Now is the ideal time to ensure your vehicle is ready for the transition of seasons by checking key safety and visibility items.

While it can be picturesque, seasonal weather is often unpredictable, so it's important to ensure your vehicle is ready for all conditions. Make sure your headlights, wiper blades and windshield washer fluid are ready for the challenges of driving during the fall and winter months ahead.

• **Windshield Wiper Blades**  
Start with checking the windshield wiper blades that work overtime in in-

lement weather. Flat blade windshield wipers are designed to hug the curve of your windshield and provide a clean wipe. Be sure to invest in a pair of new wiper blades to help give you a clear line of sight behind the wheel as the weather changes.

"To help keep drivers' windshields clean regardless of the season, PEAK offers a full line of wiper blades that help keep drivers' windshields clean regardless of the season," automotive DIY expert Emily Reeves said. "It's important to make sure you check your car manual to help determine which blade size is right for your vehicle and take into consideration the environmental elements you'll face heading into fall and winter."

• **Windshield Washer Fluid**  
Wiper blades alone won't keep leaves, dirt and grime off of your windshield. Next,

it's crucial to check your windshield washer fluid to make sure its fresh and caters to seasonal needs. Be sure to do some research to determine what is best for both your vehicle and local climate, whether that be all-season, bug cleaning or de-icing. Seasonally appropriate windshield washer fluid can help ensure you're prepared to fight everything from rain, bugs, tree sap and bird droppings from interfering with your visibility and allow you to drive more safely.

• **Headlights**

A clean, clear windshield is nothing if you aren't able to see more than 5 feet in front of you. Shorter days mean less sunlight and decreased visibility while on the road. Now is also a perfect time to check your headlights to ensure they aren't dimming, which will reduce visibility, particularly at nighttime. There are options available



Photos courtesy of Getty Images, Family Features

to suit both drivers who prefer a more golden hue as well as a white halogen glow. "There is nothing worse than a dim headlight when you're driving at night, especially as our days get shorter," Reeves said. "Whether you're dealing

with morning fog or chilly temperature drops, help maintain your visibility with PEAK Power Vision Headlamps, which include options that range from a golden hue to a white halogen glow."

These tips can help ensure

your vehicle is ready to tackle fall and winter weather conditions. For additional insights to maximize your car's potential, and key products to use as you prepare for the road ahead, visit [owi.com/retail/brands/peak-auto](http://owi.com/retail/brands/peak-auto).

## Tips to prep your tread for safe winter travel

(Family Features) While snow may be one of the highlights of winter, wet roads and ice can make for dangerous driving conditions. Cold temperatures and slick roads can wreak havoc on vehicles, making even a short commute across town a hazardous trip.

Before you step into the driver's seat this winter, pay special attention to the safety of your vehicle and consider these tips from the experts at your local Discount Tire to ensure you're ready to hit the road.

• **Install Winter Tires**

Built for the cold and designed for better traction in winter conditions when temperatures drop below 45 F, winter tires can provide better traction on slippery, wet and icy roads, which can lead to striking curbs and other objects that scratch,

dent and scuff wheels. Changing wheels and tires each season can ensure you have the best traction possible and protect summer or all-season wheels from the harsh effects of snow, ice and road-clearing chemicals like salt.

• **Keep Traction on Winter Roads**

Tread depth determines a vehicle's safe stopping distance, which is vital during winter weather when all-season tires can take an average of 110 feet to stop at 30 miles per hour compared to 81 feet in the same conditions for winter tires. You can check the tread depth by sticking a penny upside-down in a tread groove – it's time to replace your tires if President Lincoln's head is visible.

• **Check Tire Pressure**  
Tires lose air due to impacts

and pressure of bumps and turns. Colder temperatures can also impact air pressure. For every 10-degree drop in ambient temperature, tires lose one pound of pressure (PSI). At least once a month, especially before long trips, check the pressure in your tires or stop by a Discount Tire location. Low pressure can lead to poor handling and gas mileage, excessive wear and overloading. Keep a tire pressure gauge in your vehicle to ensure each tire is filled to the manufacturer's recommended inflation level and add air as necessary.

• **Know the Age of Your Tires**

The older a tire, the higher its risk for failure. As tires age, the rubber becomes harder and brittle, losing elasticity and strength. Check the DOT number stamped on your tires' sidewalls to see if it's time for replace-

ment. If you're not sure what tires are right for your vehicle, a tool like Treadwell allows you to easily input vehicle information and driving habits to receive a personalized recommendation.

• **Rotate Tires Often**

Regular tire rotations help ensure proper traction. Tires should be rotated every 6,000 miles, or earlier if uneven wear devel-

ops. One easy way to remember: Have your tires rotated every other time you have your oil changed.

• **Check for a Spare Tire**

Many newer vehicles have replaced spare tires with tire inflation kits that include



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock, Family Features

puncture-coating sealants and air compressors or run-flat tires. Check to see what your vehicle has and consider adding a roadside assistance plan in case you experience any issues during inclement weather.

To locate a store near you, or search for winter tires specific to your vehicle and driving habits, visit [discounttire.com](http://discounttire.com), or use the mobile app.

Article source: Discount Tire, Family Features

### Auto Guide

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**(360) 568-4121 or (425) 258-9396**

Supplement to the Tribune Newspapers

# Elevate your ride with stylish and functional auto accessories

**By Craig Thornburrow**

When a car rolls off the assembly line, it is virtually identical to every other vehicle of the same make and model. This is why many car owners opt to personalize and enhance their vehicles with auto accessories, making them stand out from the crowd. Whether for functionality, comfort, or style, auto accessories offer a myriad of ways to transform your ride into something uniquely yours.

**• The Basics: Car Seat Covers**

One of the simplest yet

most popular ways to customize a vehicle is by adding car seat covers. Available in a plethora of colors, patterns, textures, and sizes, car seat covers can significantly alter the interior look of your car. Specialty covers, such as those designed to handle pet hair, are also available for pet owners.

**• Protection: Car Covers**  
Car covers are essential for protecting your vehicle from the elements. They come in universal sizes or can be custom-fitted to your specific vehicle. These covers can be found at any auto supply store or online.

**• Exterior Customization: Decals and Lighting**

For those looking to make a statement, exterior customization options abound. Auto decals range from small stickers to full-window covers, allowing for a wide range of personalization. Additionally, under-car lighting options can make your vehicle stand out even more.

**• Wheels: Rims**  
Rims are one of the most popular auto accessories for those looking to enhance their vehicle's appearance. Available in various styles and sizes, rims

can range from affordable to extremely expensive. Many companies offer financing or leasing options due to the high cost of premium rims.

**• Functional Accessories: Bike Racks, Tool Boxes, and More**

Functional auto accessories are essential for those who use their vehicles for specific activities. For instance, a bike rack is a must-have for mountain biking enthusiasts, while a high-quality truck tool box is indispensable for those who use their trucks for work. Additionally, wheel-



chair lifts are available for those who need to transport someone with mobility issues.

Auto accessories offer a wide range of options for customizing and enhancing your vehicle. Whether you're looking to improve functionality, comfort, or

style, there's an accessory out there for you. With the market for auto accessories continuing to grow, the possibilities for personalizing your ride are virtually endless.

*Article source: articlesfactory.com*

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## Will insurance cover my rock chip repair?

**By Shannon Egan**

So, you are driving home from work and a big, invasive semi truck cruises past you sending loose gravel hurling towards your windshield. Bam! One cracks the glass causing a small starburst shaped chip. You wonder if it is worth fixing and if your insurance will cover it. Will you have to pay a deductible?

Generally, most car insurance companies offer rock chip repair coverage in place of windshield replacement. This is because a rock chip is much easier to replace and a



lot less expensive. Rock chips are repaired by injecting a special resin into the damaged area. The resin is cured and polished to restore the glass.

Most car insurance companies will waive the deductible. However, be wary of signing up with the few companies that do not. If rock chips are frequently hitting your windshield you could end up paying about \$50 for each repair and hundreds more to replace your windshield.

No matter what the size or shape, the rock chip general rule of thumb is: get it fixed immediately. Despite this warning, most people do not honor it which is too bad. Why? Because rock chips have a tendency to spread quickly and this could result in complete windshield replacement. This can be caused by normal and unexpected movement, excessive moisture, and extreme temperatures.

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# 1 in 5 vehicles on the road has an open recall — yours could be one of them

(NAPSI)—Considering young drivers are at a higher risk of motor vehicle crashes, it's important for guardians to encourage safe behaviors such as wearing a seatbelt, observing the speed limit, and avoiding distractions. They should also make sure teens' vehicles are as safe as possible. One easy way to make vehicles safer is to check for and repair open safety recalls.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1 in 5 vehicles on United States roads has an open safety recall.

Recalls don't always affect performance, so a vehicle could have a recall without the driver knowing. And, if an automaker does not have a vehicle owner's current address on file, the owner may not receive recall notices.

Checking for and repairing open safety recalls is a key step in keeping loved ones

safe on the roads. It's as important as regular maintenance services such as oil changes, tire rotations and wiper blade replacements. Parents and guardians can set a good example by modeling safe driving habits and ensuring their teen's vehicle is road-ready and recall-free.

### Serious Risks of Unrepaired Recalls

Unrepaired safety recalls pose a serious risk to drivers, passengers, and other road users.

The Takata airbag recall, for example, has been linked to numerous severe injuries and deaths worldwide. Defective Takata airbag inflators can rupture, even in minor collisions, sending metal shrapnel flying throughout the vehicle's cabin and causing serious injuries. According to CARFAX, there are still 6.4 million vehicles on the roads with these recalled airbags.

Even if a recall doesn't

appear to affect daily driving, the risk can increase over time. Age and exposure to hot, humid climates makes Takata airbag inflators more likely to rupture. Simple actions, such as getting recalled parts repaired, can be the difference between life and death in the event of a crash.

### How to Check for Recalls

Checking for recalls is quick, easy, and free. With families preparing to hit the roads for the holidays, now is an excellent time to ensure their vehicles are safe. Drivers should visit CheckToProtect.org and enter their license plate number, upload a photo of their license plate, or lookup their 17-character Vehicle Identification Number—also known as a VIN—to instantly learn if they have any safety recalls on their vehicle.

For teen drivers, ensuring vehicles are recall-free adds an extra layer of protection as they travel to and from

school, extracurricular activities, and social gatherings.

### How to Get Your Free Recall Repair

If the ChecktoProtect.org lookup tool indicates that a vehicle has an open safety recall, drivers should call an authorized dealer immediately to schedule a repair appointment. Even if the nearest authorized dealer isn't close to where drivers live, it's important to get the recall repaired to protect the drivers and their passengers.

Authorized dealers will always repair a safety recall at no cost to the consumer, regardless of the age of the vehicle or whether it is under warranty. Drivers do not need to be the owner of the vehicle or a current or former customer of the dealership to get the free recall repair.

Recall repairs can take as little as one hour, and many dealers offer options such as ride share vouchers,



For teen drivers, ensuring vehicles are recall-free adds an extra layer of protection as they travel to and from school, extracurricular activities, and social gatherings.

loaner cars, shuttles, and other services to ensure that consumers can get repairs completed without hassle. Dealers should be able to provide a time estimate when consumers schedule the repair appointment. If consumers call the dealer in advance, they can ask if they have the recall repair parts in stock to save time.

Recall repairs will not

negatively affect the value of a vehicle. Drivers should consider it a fix that will improve vehicle safety and save them money by preventing expensive damages in the future.

Addressing recalls as soon as possible not only helps ensure the safety of drivers and their families, but also contributes to making the roads safer for everyone.

## Funniest reasons people failed their driving test

By I. Mustafa

When you are new to the road, it can sometimes be hard to anticipate what other drivers are going to do next as you just aren't as familiar with how traffic systems work. However, this story is about people failing their driving tests.

Upon pulling up behind some cars, the pupil taking the lesson assumed they were waiting for the traffic lights to change. After seven whole embarrassing minutes, which must have seemed like forever, the instructor eventually told the pupil to drive around the parked cars with no drivers in them.

Nerves hit all of us when we sit in that driver's seat and face down our test route, but with the right training and preparation most

should pass with flying colors. Of course, nerves do affect some more than others. One unlucky pupil managed to let their nerves get the better of them and messed up their test in the worst way possible. Instead of reversing out of the parking space to begin their test, the student mixed up their gears and put it in first, subsequently flying into the side of the test center. I think it is needless to say that they definitely failed.

Some of us may have experienced the terror of seeing an animal caught helplessly in front of our car, but not many of us are unlucky enough for this to happen on our driving test. One such pupil had this happen to them, with disastrous results. When a pigeon landed in front of the test car, the student swerved



around to miss killing it, as most humane people would do. However, this was directly into the path of a semi-truck and trailer. Being a 'sensible' person, the driver decided to shut their eyes at this moment. Upon opening them, they found themselves in the ditch at the side of the road. Another

obvious fail.

Article Source: EzineArticles.com

## Winter safety kit for your vehicle

- Blanket, gloves, hats and extra socks
- Extra clothing and boots
- Jumper cables or portable jump starter
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable snacks
- Portable power supply to recharge your cell phone
- Candle powered heater
- Fire extinguisher
- First-aid kit and manual
- Shovel
- Flares
- Tire repair kit
- Spare tire
- Portable air compressor
- Snowbrush and ice scraper
- Bag of sand or kitty litter to help with traction
- Extra windshield fluid
- Simple tool kit
- Battery-powered radio
- Battery-powered flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Note pad and pen

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