

**23 April 2010**

## Prepare your car for summer: 5 tips from the IAM

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has offered drivers advice on how to prime their cars properly for the warmer weather.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said: "After a long winter of wear and tear through snow, salt and potholes - and now volcanic dust - your car will be in need of a little TLC. Being prepared for the summer and making checks now can save you a lot of money in the long run.

"Try to deal with any minor problems and repairs as they happen, as they can become very expensive if left to build up over time," he added.

The IAM recommends five tips to prepare your car:

- Now is a good time to treat your car to a spring clean. Salt is a corrosive and will cause rusting if left on the bodywork. If possible take your car to a car wash that specialises in under-car cleaning to get rid of every trace.
- The UK pollen season starts around now and can be pretty miserable for hayfever sufferers, so replacing your car's pollen filter annually is a vital investment. Keeping your air-con well maintained will help, too.
- Servicing your air-con will help your car smell better. If it smells stale when you turn the heating on, it could well be a sign that mould is building up in your condenser.
- Flies will soon be out in force so be sure to refill your washer fluid. Habitually washing the windscreen and headlamps when you stop for fuel is also important as windscreen wipers won't get rid of all the fly debris.
- Old wiper blades are not only deafening, they can leave marks on the windscreen, so remember to replace them regularly. After the dust that has fallen from the volcanic ash cloud, it is particularly important that you clean them regularly to avoid damaging your windscreen.

The IAM stress that certain checks should be made regardless of the season: "Anti-freeze contains corrosion inhibitors so you should keep your car topped up with the right mixture all year round; going without could lead to expensive internal damage such as a blown head gasket," added Mr Rodger.

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**Media contacts:**

IAM Press Office – 020 8996 9777

[press.office@iam.org.uk](mailto:press.office@iam.org.uk)

ISDN broadcast lines available

[iam.org.uk](http://iam.org.uk)

1. The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) directly influences the driving and riding of more than 100,000 full members in the UK and Ireland. Established in 1956, the IAM is today best known for the advanced driving test and the advanced driving course, which is available to car, motorcycle and commercial licence holders. The IAM has grown to become the UK's largest independent road safety charity, dedicated to raising driving standards, engaging with the road-using public and influencing road safety policy. The commercial division of the IAM operates through occupational driver training companies IAM Fleet and Drive & Survive.

2. A 2006 report by Brunel University, following an 18 month study, concluded that "advanced driver training produces safer drivers and lower accident involvement", with measurable improvements in knowledge, skills and attitude.

3. In January 2007, the IAM established the Policy and Research Division to undertake research, promote practical policies, act as an advocate for safer roads, safer drivers and safer vehicles and encourage responsible motoring through education and training.

