

CURRY'S AUTO SERVICE



complete automotive service

Going Green *in the auto repair industry means....*

1. Getting your vehicle serviced at a repair facility that is practicing good “green” methods that could include:

- Recycling oil and waste liquids.
- Recycling used oil filters.
- Proper Hazardous waste disposal for by-products that cannot be recycled and proper storage so the material is safely contained.
- Oil Spill kits available to properly contain any spills.
- Reusable cloth wipes used instead of disposable.
- A policy to regularly check all major systems on every car that comes in. Not keeping these in good working condition could eventually cause poor gas mileage and performance and increased emissions into the atmosphere. Minimally, keeping your filters, tires (air pressure and tread wear) and ignition system and fuel delivery systems in tip-top shape will help keep your car running it's “greenest”.
- Recycle old car batteries and scrap parts; quickly turn these around so they don't sit out and rust and/ or leak.
- Recycle old tires properly.
- Use compact fluorescent and energy smart bulbs.
- Use high quality filters that keep cars running clean.
- Have emission testing equipment to test cars for bad emissions.
- Buy tires and other parts in bulk to cut down on deliveries.
- Educating employees and technicians on new technologies including hybrid and alternate fuel engines.
- Participate and support local Recycling programs, like Recycle Bank. (www.recyclebank.com)
- Use seat and floor protectors that are made out of recycled products.
- Investing in waste oil heaters that use oil drained from cars and other fluids. Used oil is one of the few wastes that allow a consumer to “close the loop” since it can be re-refined into the same product again. When used properly in compliant heaters, used oil can be a great fuel for heating cavernous repair facilities.

2. Check out the showroom, office and company policies. The small stuff can even add up:

- Recycled paper being used and recycled print cartridges; printing double sided and removing 3-part forms from use.
- Use of occupancy sensors that automatically turn off the lights when nobody is in the room.
- Recycle bins for bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
- Environmentally friendly coffee cups.
- Filtered water dispensers instead of water bottles.
- Electronic service reminders and newsletters to cut down on paper use. Providing your email to support this can make a big contribution to this effort.
- Recycling old office equipment or properly disposing it. Participate in local recycling programs, such as PCRecycler, a company in Chantilly that holds monthly recycling events: www.pcrecycler.net/services/drop/monthly-collection-events/.
- The use of flat-panel monitors and televisions that are energy- efficient.

3. Make sure your car runs efficiently

- Keep your tires inflated properly. Under-inflated tires cost the US more than \$3.5 million gallons of gasoline a DAY!
- Replace air filters every other oil change. Make sure they are thoroughly inspected with each change.
- Change oil regularly and base the interval on not only what the manufacture recommends, but on your driving habits and driving conditions. (usually every 3,000 – 5,000 miles)
- Religiously do an Air Fuel Induction service. This service cleans the intake manifold and the combustion chamber that can accumulate deposits from fuel over time. This build- up of carbon and varnish can cause the “check engine light” to illuminate. Keeping these areas clean can increase fuel mileage, allow your car to run smoother and can increase overall motor performance.
- Use top grade ester-based oils like Motul. These oils are biodegradable, use renewable sources, and enhance engine performance.
- Adhere to the Department of Environmental Quality and State Emission requirements. An illuminated “check engine light” can be an indication that your emissions are at an unacceptable level and should be checked.
- Don’t lose your valve stem caps. Most new cars have Tire Pressure Monitoring systems (TPM) that can malfunction if the caps become loose or fall off.

4. Other easy things that we often forget

- Lighten your load and be aerodynamic (don’t keep heavy loads in your car and remove bike or ski racks when not in use). Every 100 pounds can reduce your fuel economy by 2%.
- Keep your exterior clean by visiting a local brushless car wash. This will conserve water since they use less water per car than you will with a hose. The water that drains from your driveway after a wash is loaded with gasoline, oil and residues from exhaust fumes, and all the chemicals in the washing detergent and other products. All of this drains directly into our waterways. Car washes, on the other hand, are usually required to treat and recycle their water.
- Aggressive driving is really bad for gas mileage. Smooth, gentle driving within the speed limit and avoiding flooring the gas pedal can reduce gas mileage by 33% on the highway.

- Don't idle your car. Turn it off. Idling can burn up to 22 gallons a year. It takes less gas to turn your engine off and restart it. Also, to warm your car up (just the interior), one or two minutes is sufficient. With modern, fuel-injected cars, the engine is ready to go once it's started!
- Make sure your gas cap is tightly secured. If you can believe it, about 17% of the vehicles on the roads have gas caps that are either damaged, loose or are missing. Approximately 147 million gallons of gas are vaporized every year! A loose or missing gas cap can also cause your "check engine light" to illuminate!
- Use your cruise control when you're on the highway. If set at the right speed, it could even save you a speeding ticket.

5. Lastly, according to the AskPatty.com BeGreen Program, don't sweat these urban myths:

- MYTH: Turning off your car's air conditioner will make your car more efficient and cut down on gas consumption.
- FACT: *While it's definitely true that the AC does affect fuel efficiency, Consumer Reports figures it amounts to only one mile per gallon, and Edmunds.com says you could end up burning more if you open the window and increase air resistance. Keep it at low and keep cool because it'll make you a safer driver.*
- MYTH: Using an ethanol fuel is better for the environment.
- FACT: *The corn-based fuel has become more popular recently, but environmental groups have opposed the growing trend because of all the land, water and energy needed to produce it. While using ethanol instead of gas may reduce greenhouse emissions by about 10%, the benefit is swamped by the adverse environmental consequences, according to an exhaustive study of biofuels last year by Swiss researchers.*