



Car Care Articles

The secret to proper car maintenance in Canada

Most owner manuals for today's vehicles come with two maintenance schedules, one for normal driving conditions and another for "severe" conditions.

Which applies to you?

Well, if you live in Canada, you should follow the severe conditions maintenance schedule, regardless of *how* you drive your vehicle. Some people think that the severe-condition schedule applies only to "aggressive" drivers, but that's not the case. Car Care Canada reminds people that the proper maintenance schedule depends on the environment in which they drive their vehicles, not on their habits behind the wheel.

Severe conditions include the following:

- Cold weather
- Idling extensively or driving in stop-and-go traffic
- Driving less than 8 kms per trip; or in freezing temperatures, driving less than 16 km per trip
- Driving in temperatures over 32° C
- Towing a trailer, driving with a roof rack, or driving in mountains
- Driving on muddy, dusty, or de-iced roads

Most owner manuals recommend that Canadian drivers follow the maintenance schedule for severe conditions (which was developed by automotive engineers). By maintaining your vehicle according to this schedule, you'll help keep your driving trouble-free while preserving the longevity of your vehicle, not to mention enhancing its resale value.

For more car maintenance tips, visit Car Care Canada's website at www.carcarecanada.ca.