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Ready Your Car For Spring And Summer Travel

(MS) -- The return of warm weather marks the return of road trips for millions of motorists across the country. Whether going to the beach or heading off to parts unknown, hitting the open road with the windows down is a time-honored tradition for drivers of all ages.

But such road trips can prove disastrous if drivers don't take the right steps to prepare their vehicles for spring and summer travel. The following are a few ways motorists can ensure their car is ready to tackle the open road.

* Tighten things up. Loose parts, such as exhaust clamps, license plates, and interior trim panels, can create rattles and cause parts to get damaged or fall off. What's more, rattling sounds can be a noisy nuisance for drivers and passengers alike. Permatex Threadlockers can be used to keep the nuts and bolts from coming loose and save parts replacement costs. They also have a threadlocker for plastic fasteners, which vehicle manufacturers have grown to rely on more and more.

* Wash your car. A newly washed car not only looks good, but it's often much safer as well. Take your car to a car wash a few days before the trip and have the vehicle thoroughly cleaned. A thorough cleaning will remove dirt and grime from the vehicle's undercarriage, not to mention unsightly bird droppings and water spots or salt stains leftover from winter.

* Fix foggy headlight lenses. Many spring and summer road trippers travel at night so their days can be spent soaking up some sun at the beach or lake. Before heading off

for parts unknown, motorists should inspect their headlight lenses to reduce risk of accident. If the lenses are yellowed and foggy, that's likely because salt, ozone and road debris has dulled them to a point where vision can be impaired, placing drivers and their passengers at risk. But foggy lenses don't mandate an expensive headlight replacement. In fact,

* Check the battery. Over time, battery terminals and cables will start to corrode. Such corrosion will eventually eat away at the battery's parts, creating a bad connection that sooner or later will require the battery be replaced. Check the battery before your trip and remember to clean the battery periodically as part of routine vehicle maintenance.

* Address windshield nicks and bullseyes. Nicks and chips in the windshields are a common problem regardless of the season. But such damage is most prevalent in the winter because of the extra debris that's on the road. These nicks and cracks need to get fixed as soon as possible to prevent them from spreading and resulting in the need for a windshield replacement. Oftentimes, motorists can address nicks and bullseyes in their own driveways in a matter of minutes. For example, the Permatex Bullseye Windshield Repair kit is tailor made for do-it-yourselfers, requiring no heating or mixing while ensuring each repair is virtually undetectable.

More information on easy repairs that you can do yourself can be found at www.permatex.com.
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1997 CHEVY S-10 pickup, 6 cyl, auto, fuel injection, low mileage, great starter vehicle. 704-482-5299, 704-472-7721.

2002 FORD EXPLORER 170K miles, excellent shape, 2nd owner, \$4200 obo. 704-300-6963.

1995 SILVER CAMARO Z28 T-Tops, 172,000 miles, needs starter & thermostat, \$2000. Call 704-418-3159.

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1998 DEVILLE, ONE OWNER clean, must see!! \$3000 obo. 704-538-7158.

FOR SALE 1986 FORD 25 PASSENGER BUS Runs good, good tires, miles 113,350. Used as church bus \$3000. 828-453-8769 or 704-473-1469

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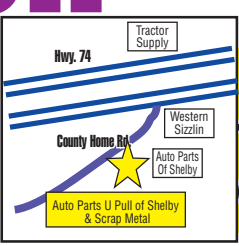
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GPS Usage Tips

Today's drivers rely heavily on GPS technology, or global positioning system devices. GPS has revolutionized the way people drive and use maps and directions.



While there are no hard statistics on the number of people who own GPS devices, thousands of people have either a GPS device that comes pre-equipped in a car that they purchased or a stand-alone device that was bought after the fact. These devices come pre-loaded with maps that work with satellites in space. The GPS receiver figures out the distance to each and uses this information to deduce the location of the device in a process called trilateration.

GPS devices have made paper maps obsolete for many people. While GPS devices can be very convenient, especially on road trips, there are some tips to keep in mind.

- Place the GPS device where it won't obstruct your vision or take your eyes off the road for a good deal of time.
- Don't treat the GPS as if it is infallible. Even with map updates and other accessories, a GPS can still make mistakes. Use common sense, especially where it would seem the GPS is guiding you in the wrong way.
- Do not play with the controls while operating the car. If you need to adjust something on the GPS, do so only after pulling over to a safe area.
- Have a general idea where you are going so you'll know if the GPS is potentially guiding you in the wrong direction and can maneuver in advance.

Courtesy of metro Editorial

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1996 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE. 106K miles, New transmission at 85K. Good running car. \$3100. 704-692-1033

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2007 GMC SIERRA SLE, 74k miles, V8, auto, loaded, extended cab, black tinted windows, \$13,200. 704-418-2711.

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1993 ESCORT, REPLACED MOTOR Lots of new parts. Too many to list. New clutch, 18" wheels, with extra body parts, \$1000 obo. 704-692-4492.

1995 HONDA ODYSSEY \$2500 obo. 1986 Ford Pickup, \$1295. 2002 Dodge Caravan, \$2500 obo. 1997 Mercury Tracer, \$1495 obo. 704-300-1955.

1986 WORK VAN, F250, auto, 6 cylinder, runs good, \$1650. 152 Winder St. Spindale.

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2000 PLYMOUTH GRAND Voyager SE V6 AT Front/rear air, loaded, seats 7, runs/drives and looks good. 178k \$2300. 704-538-6722.

2000 FORD RANGER XLT, Super Cab, 2WD, Red, 117k miles, power package, auto, bed liner, very good condition, \$5500 OBO. 828-287-3282.

2011 TOYOTA TACOMA TRUCK, 2WD, 5 speed, air, CD, slide windows, new tires, 35k miles, excellent condition, \$13,200. 828-453-0609.

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1999 GMC Z71, 5.3, V8, auto, air, 4x4, very good truck, \$5500. 828-247-4889.

2002 KIA OPTIMA SE, auto, V6, leather, sunroof, \$3000. 828-247-4889.

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2003 BUICK LESABRE, V6, auto, air, loaded, 4 door, 130k, white, very good condition, \$4300. 704-538-9604.

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