October is Fall Vehicle Maintenance: Is Your Car Ready for Colder Weather?

As temperatures drop and the leaves begin to change, it's time to make sure your vehicle is ready for the challenges of fall and winter driving.

Cooler mornings, shorter days, falling leaves, and unpredictable weather can all take a toll on your vehicle. A little preventive maintenance now can help you avoid unexpected breakdowns, costly repairs, and inconvenient roadside emergencies.

At **Mt. Airy Service Center**, we believe keeping your vehicle safe, reliable, and performing at its best starts with regular maintenance. From battery testing and tire inspections to professional preventive maintenance services using **BG Products**, here are six important areas to check before colder weather arrives.

🔋 1. Battery: Don't Get Left Out in the Cold



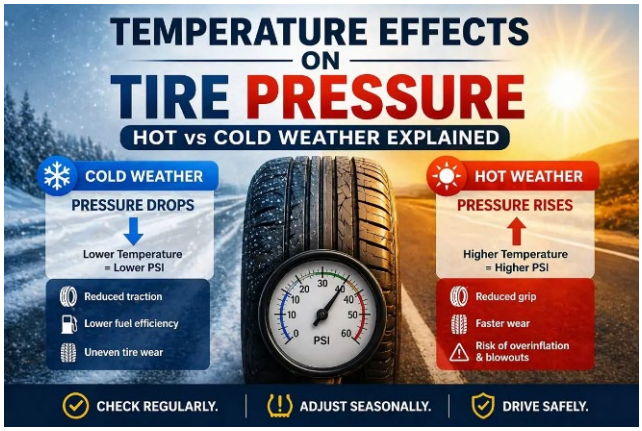
Cold weather can be especially tough on your vehicle's battery. As temperatures drop, your battery's ability to deliver power decreases, while your engine may require more power to start.

If your battery is already weak, that first frosty morning could leave you stranded.

Signs your battery may need attention:

- Slow or sluggish engine cranking
- Dim headlights or flickering interior lights
- Clicking sounds when starting your vehicle
- Battery warning light on your dashboard
- Corrosion around battery terminals

🛞 2. Tires: Traction Matters When Temperatures Drop



Your tires are your vehicle's only contact with the road, making them essential for safe driving in rain, frost, snow, and icy conditions.

As outdoor temperatures decrease, tire pressure naturally drops. Underinflated tires can affect handling, fuel efficiency, and tire wear.

What to check:

- **Tire Pressure:** Check inflation regularly using the pressure recommended by your vehicle manufacturer, typically found on the driver's doorjamb label.
- **Tread Depth:** Worn tires reduce traction, particularly on wet or slippery roads.
- **Uneven Wear:** Unusual tread wear may indicate alignment, suspension, or inflation problems.
- **Tire Condition:** Inspect for cracks, bulges, punctures, or other visible damage.

🌡️ 3. Heating & Defrosting Systems: Comfort Meets Safety

Your vehicle's heating system does more than keep you comfortable. It also plays an important role in maintaining visibility during colder weather.

A properly functioning heater and defroster help clear fog and frost from your windshield and windows, allowing you to see the road clearly.

Warning signs to watch for:

- Little or no heat coming from the vents
- Windows that take too long to defog
- Unusual smells when the heater is running
- Weak airflow from the vents
- Coolant leaks or a sweet smell inside the cabin



🛢️ 4. Fluids: Keep Everything Running Smoothly

Your vehicle relies on several essential fluids to operate safely and efficiently. Colder weather can place additional demands on these systems, making fall an ideal time to check fluid levels and conditions.



Important fluids to inspect:

Engine Oil: Proper oil levels and the manufacturer-recommended viscosity help protect your engine during cold starts.
Coolant/Antifreeze: Your cooling system prevents both overheating and freezing. The correct coolant mixture and proper system operation are essential.
Brake Fluid: Proper fluid levels and condition are critical for reliable braking performance.
Transmission Fluid: Maintaining the correct fluid level and condition helps protect your transmission.
Windshield Washer Fluid: Use washer fluid rated for freezing temperatures to help prevent freezing when winter arrives.

🌧️ 5. Windshield Wipers: Clear Visibility Is Essential



Fall brings rain, falling leaves, morning frost, and eventually snow. Your windshield wipers need to be in good condition to keep your view of the road clear.

Over time, wiper blades deteriorate from sunlight, heat, dirt, and normal use. Worn blades can leave streaks, skip across the glass, or fail to clear water effectively.

Signs it's time for new wiper blades:

- Streaking or smearing across the windshield
- Squeaking or chattering noises
- Skipping or uneven wiping
- Cracked, torn, or hardened rubber
- Areas of the windshield that remain wet after wiping

🍂 Fall Maintenance Tips

1. Have your battery tested before winter arrives, especially if it's more than three years old.
2. Check tire pressure when tires are cold, at least once a month.
3. Turn on your heater and defroster before temperatures drop significantly.
4. Don't wait for a warning light to check your fluids.
5. Inspect your wiper blades this fall and replace them if necessary.

🛢️ BG Products: Extra Protection Through Preventive Maintenance

At **Mt. Airy Service Center**, we believe preventive maintenance is one of the best ways to protect your investment and extend the life of your vehicle. That's why we use **BG Products**, a trusted name in professional automotive maintenance products and services.

How BG Products and Our Experience Technicians Can Help:

- **BG Engine Services:** Help remove harmful deposits and support engine performance and longevity.
- **BG Fuel System Services:** Help clean fuel system deposits, supporting efficient engine operation and performance.
- **BG Transmission Services:** Help maintain transmission fluid condition and support smooth, reliable shifting.
- **BG Cooling System Services:** Help remove contaminants and maintain cooling system performance, especially important as temperatures approach freezing.

- **BG Brake Fluid Services:** Help replace aging, moisture-contaminated brake fluid to support proper braking system operation.

Additional Peace of Mind: Lifetime BG Protection Plan®

Qualifying BG preventive maintenance services may also provide added protection through the Lifetime BG Protection Plan®.

This program offers coverage for eligible components in several major vehicle systems when qualifying BG services are performed and required maintenance intervals are followed. Coverage is subject to vehicle eligibility, program requirements, and terms and conditions.

🍁 **A Little Prevention Goes a Long Way**

Addressing minor maintenance issues before winter can help prevent costly repairs and keep your vehicle safe and reliable. Our technicians evaluate your vehicle's condition, mileage, and maintenance history to recommend only the services needed, helping you drive with confidence throughout the colder months.

By combining routine inspections, professional preventive maintenance services using BG Products, and the expertise of our experienced technicians, Mt. Airy Service Center helps keep your vehicle performing at its best throughout the changing seasons.

🔧 **Get Your Vehicle Fall-Ready at Mt. Airy Service Center!**



At **Mt. Airy Service Center**, your safety and peace of mind are our priorities. Our experienced technicians can inspect your vehicle's essential systems and identify potential maintenance needs before colder weather sets in.

Our goal isn't simply to fix problems when they occur. **It's to help prevent them whenever possible.**

Don't wait until the first freezing morning to discover a problem!

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Schedule your fall vehicle maintenance appointment today and drive into the colder months with confidence!

Read all of our blogs at https://www.mtairyservice.com/blogs

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