

# intune

## IS IT TIME FOR NEW WIPER BLADES?

**ACDelco**

The thing about worn-out windshield wiper blades is that you never think about replacing them until it's raining or snowing—and their smeared, chattering performance drives you crazy. So, take a moment right now to recall the last time you turned on the wipers: How did they perform?

If your answer is "not great," have your ACDelco affiliated technician inspect and possibly replace them. New blades can be swapped out quickly while you wait. There are ACDelco blades to fit just about every car, truck and SUV on the road.

As a rule of thumb, wiper blades should be replaced about once a year, although they should be replaced whenever they start to exhibit streaking, smearing or excessive chattering. Extreme conditions, such as very hot or very cold weather, can affect the natural rubber material of the blades, causing cracks and requiring more frequent replacement.

### A Brief History of Wipers:

- American inventor Mary Anderson patented the first windshield wiper design in 1903.
- Windshield wipers became standard equipment on cars around 1916.
- The first wipers were hand-operated. Electric wipers didn't arrive until the late 1920s – were only found on luxury cars.
- Intermittent wipers were invented in the 1960s by an engineering professor from Michigan.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Roadside Assistance may be offered on installed parts and services performed at your ACDelco-affiliated Professional Service Centre. That means if a problem occurs while you're on the road, you could be covered for a portion of your tow back to the shop. Ask your Professional Service Centre representative for complete details.

## WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

Does your car make a clunking, popping or rattling sound – or even a donkey-like "eee-aww" sound – when you hit a bump or pothole? And does it sound as if it's coming from the front of the vehicle? If so, you'll want to have the front suspension inspected right away.

Clunks and rattles can be attributed to comparatively benign issues, such as worn bushings, but could also indicate serious and potentially dangerous problems with components called ball joints, tie rod ends or control arms – items that are connected to the steering system. These sounds could also indicate problems with the struts. Those problems are potentially dangerous because they could lead to a loss of vehicle control.

If your car is making those sounds, ask your ACDelco Professional Service Centre to inspect it immediately!

# THE LOWDOWN

## ON TIRE PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEMS



If your vehicle is a 2008 or newer (and some earlier models), it has a Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS). It is designed to do exactly what its name suggests – keep tabs on tire pressure and alert the driver if the pressure in one or more tires falls more than 25 percent below the manufacturer's recommendations.

**How does it work?** Battery-powered sensors are located in each tire to monitor tire pressure. They are connected with the valve stems, and by way of radio frequency technology, send pressure updates to the vehicle's onboard computer. If the pressure is too low, a warning light or warning message on the instrument panel is displayed.

**What does the warning light look like?** It is a yellow or orange telltale that looks like an exclamation point inside of a tire symbol. It should come on briefly when the vehicle is started, but go off with the other warning lights when the pressure isn't below the 25 percent threshold.

**What should I do if the light comes on?** If the light comes on and stays on, it indicates that one or more of the tires are significantly underinflated. Properly adjusting all tire air pressures to the recommended levels and driving the vehicle will turn the light off. If the light flashes for about a minute and then stays on, it indicates a possible problem with the TPMS, and you should visit your automotive service provider for an inspection.

**Does the TPMS ever need to be replaced or serviced?** Yes. Over time, the batteries in the sensors will die, requiring replacement of the TPMS. Depending on the climate you live in, the batteries will generally last between 5 and 12 years, with hotter climates typically at the lower end of the estimate.

Your ACDelco-affiliated Professional Service Centre has replacement TPMS modules for GM vehicles and many other makes. If your TPMS light is on, ask your technician or service representative for an inspection.

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## DON'T WAIT

### 5 REPAIRS THAT CAN COST MORE LATER

We've all been there – choosing to ignore a troubling sound, odour or sign of wear on our vehicles. Whether it's finding time in your schedule or funds in your checkbook, it's easy to put off maintenance or repairs, but that can lead to more expensive work down the road. Here are five examples of when time is definitely not on your side:

- 1. Squeaking/squealing brakes** – Built-in indicators on disc brake pads warn when they're worn, and ignoring them could lead to more expensive brake repairs. Catch 'em early and you might just get away with replacing only the pads.
- 2. Vibrating/pulsing brakes** – In addition to the squealing brake pads, you might feel a slight vibration or pulsing when you press the brake pedal. It's a probable indicator that the brake rotors are beginning to warp. Servicing them right away might require only less-expensive machining. If the warping gets too severe, the rotors will have to be replaced.
- 3. Battery/charging light** – Has the battery/charging light come on intermittently lately? If so, it could indicate a problem with the alternator's ability to charge the battery. Have it checked right away, because if the alternator dies while you're driving, the battery will soon follow – and you could be stranded, while adding a towing charge to your repair.
- 4. Low coolant level** – Has the low-coolant light been on in your car? For a long time? Don't ignore it. An engine that's low on coolant has a much greater risk of overheating, which can severely damage the engine. Topping off the coolant is easy and inexpensive. Visit your ACDelco Professional Service Centre if you're unsure about adding coolant, and ask a technician to inspect the system for leaks.
- 5. Timing belt** – Check your Owner's Manual for the recommended replacement interval for the engine's timing belt. Having it replaced is one of the more labour-intensive and therefore costly maintenance procedures, but risking the belt breaking could cost much more. For one thing, you'll never know when it will break, which could strand you and incur towing charges. And on some engines a broken timing belt can cause severe – and expensive – engine damage.

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