

Tire care cuts costs

Proper maintenance of tires and wheel alignment can reduce vehicle operating costs, advises the Car Care Council.

For example, tires underinflated by only eight pounds can reduce gas mileage by 5 percent or more. Cost-conscious motorists should check tire inflation frequently. Gauges are available in most automotive stores for less than \$2.

Owners should also check tires for abnormal wear when vehicles are on lifts for lubrication or underframe service.

Further reduction of fuel consumption would be the result of incorrect alignment, which can result in at least a 2 percent per-tankful energy loss — as well as reducing tire life.

incorrect alignment accelerates tire wear to an even greater degree.

The council points out there are fwo easy ways to detect incorrect alignment of tire balance, indicating the need for cost-saving wheel or front end service:

1. Looseness or excessive play in steering, or difficulty in controlling the vehicle over bumps and around curves are indications of problems which need correcting.

2. Another is vibration or the slightest

When vehicles are on lubrication lifts. another preventative maintenance check would be asking a qualified mechanic to check the front end and steering for looseness, and shock absorbers for

A good mechanic can determine the corrective measures needed for steering and suspension systems . . . or advise that ball joints, steering linkage and shock absorbers still are dependable but wearing to the point where replacement would be advisable.

If parts replacement is recommended, the council advises against economic short cuts in quality of parts, extent of service and cut rate estimates. Insufficlent service to save a few dollars can mean much higher future repair bills as a result of the penny-wise philosophy.

Careful attention to steering, suspension and tires are among the major con-siderations to keep vehicle maintenance costs low.

Comparative shopping, which considers quality bought as well as final cost, can help determine the best car maintenance bargain.

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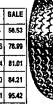
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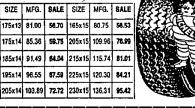
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