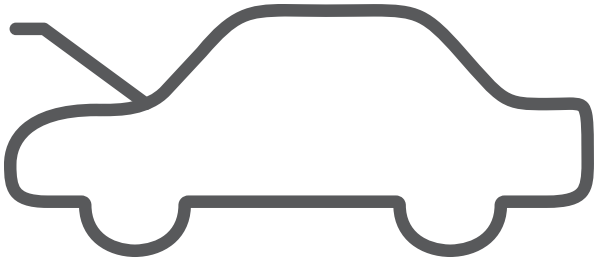


# intune

SUMMER 2010



## Did You Know?

Through a program with ACDelco, your ACDelco-affiliated service center has access to technical training that enables its technicians to stay on top of the latest in automotive repair procedures, technology and more. Every year, ACDelco offers dozens of specialized courses, from general topics such as air conditioning to model-specific courses. ACDelco also delivers a number of technical bulletins and other communications that give the technicians an edge when it comes to diagnosing and repairing your vehicle. So, when you see that ACDelco sign at your favorite service center, it means more than just great service – it means the technicians there are well-equipped to handle just about anything.

## Struts vs. Shocks



Most of us know that struts and shock absorbers are part of the suspension and seemingly do the same thing – dampen the impact of bumps to help provide a smoother ride. Technically, they reduce excessive motion of the springs. Shocks can be found in the front and rear of the vehicle, while struts are typically only used on the front suspension. Typically, struts also serve as the pivot point for steering. Most modern cars and crossovers use a strut-type suspension, while most trucks and SUVs use shocks on the front suspension.

**An inspection of the shocks or struts should be carried out if:**

- Your vehicle “rolls” more going around corners
- Your vehicle seems to dip excessively during braking
- Your vehicle seems to sway or bounce excessively on bumpy surfaces
- It’s been more than 50,000 miles since their last inspection

## Maximize Your Fuel Economy on Your Summer Trip

You may not be able to do much about the costs at your favorite theme park this summer, but there are things you can do to minimize the cost of getting there. We’ve compiled a list of eight ways the EPA suggests to maximize your fuel economy. You can find more ideas and more information at [acdelco.com](http://acdelco.com); or at the EPA’s Web site, [fuelconomy.gov](http://fuelconomy.gov). Click on the “Tips” section and you’ll find the full list.



1. **Go the speed limit and use cruise control:** Driving faster and fluctuations in speed simply use more gas.
2. **Drive sensibly:** Aggressive accelerating and braking waste fuel. They’re also less safe.
3. **Avoid idling and rush-hour traffic:** When you’re stuck in traffic and not moving, your car gets 0 miles per gallon.
4. **Keep your engine properly tuned:** Even small problems can have a big effect on fuel economy.
5. **Remove junk from the trunk:** Don’t carry more than you need – an extra 100 pounds could reduce fuel mileage by up to 2 percent.
6. **Use the recommended grade of motor oil:** Your vehicle’s manufacturer specifies the oil to use; not doing so can affect mileage by up to 2 percent.
7. **Keep tires properly inflated:** This is a simple, proven method for maintaining optimal fuel economy, while also maximizing the life of your vehicle’s tires.
8. **Avoid rooftop carriers:** They add aerodynamic drag on your vehicle, causing it to use more fuel to maintain its highway speed. Excessive weight in the carrier can also affect mileage.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

**246.4 million:** The number of cars, light trucks and heavy-duty trucks registered in the United States.

**19.8 million:** The number of vehicles registered in California – the most of any U.S. state. Wyoming has the fewest registrations, at 210,000.

**4.03 million:** The number of public road miles in the United States – including about 46,700 miles of Interstate roads.

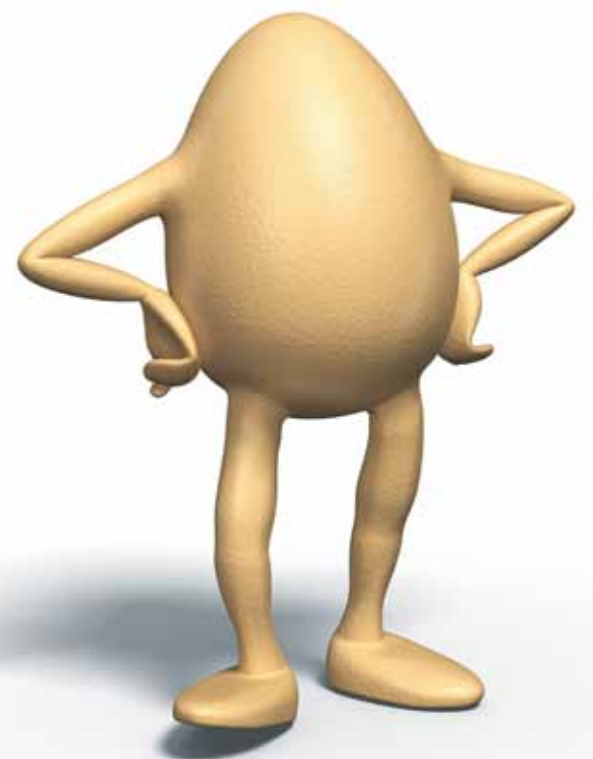
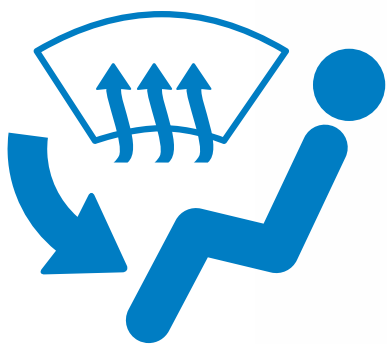
**18,115:** The average annual mileage per capita of the citizens of Wyoming – the state whose residents drive the most each year. Due to the bulk of public-transportation-riding New York City residents, New York is the state with the lowest mileage per capita, at 6,954.

**39 hours:** The average number of hours commuters spend each year stuck in Los Angeles-area traffic – the most congested urban area in America. The least-congested is Buffalo, New York, where commuters burn only about 5 hours a year in traffic slow-downs.



## Cool New Car: The 2011 Buick Regal

The Regal is back at Buick, reborn as a European-bred, midsize sport sedan designed to challenge driving enthusiasts' preconceptions of the brand's products. Its standard engine is an ECOTEC 2.4L with an estimated 182 horsepower, with an ECOTEC 2.0L turbo engine optional (available early 2011). Both engines are matched with 6-speed automatic transmissions, with a 6-speed manual available with the turbo engine – the first manual transmission offered on a Buick in a long time. Chassis details include four-wheel independent suspension, four-wheel disc brakes and standard 18-inch wheels. Inside is an available high-tech "infotainment" center, with optional features including a Navigation System, Harman Kardon® audio system and even a 10-gig hard drive for storing tons of music.



## All About Air Conditioning

As the summer heats up, you rely more on your vehicle's air conditioning system for comfortable driving. But if you're not an automotive air conditioning expert, the odds are you don't know exactly how the system works. We're here to explain the basics, along with descriptions of symptoms that may indicate when your "AC" system isn't blowing as coldly as it should.

AC systems remove heat and humidity from the air to provide greater passenger comfort. When warm air is pulled into the air-circulation system, it is cooled and conditioned as it flows over the evaporator fins. The cold refrigerant in the evaporator absorbs heat. This absorbed heat is then rejected through the condenser to the outside air. The compressor moves the refrigerant through the system. When the refrigerant flows through the condenser, the condenser operates much like the radiator. Heat is released through the fins of the condenser in the same manner that heat from the engine coolant leaves the radiator. The refrigerant then returns to the evaporator where it absorbs heat from inside the vehicle and then the cycle repeats itself.

In addition to heat, humidity is also removed from the air. As the air passes over the evaporator fins, moisture condenses on the fins and flows out of the vehicle through the evaporator drain. The moisture condensing on the fins traps dust and pollen and helps clean the passenger compartment air.

### Time for an AC inspection

If your vehicle displays any of the symptoms below, have it inspected for service needs.

- The air blowing out of the vents is cool, but not as cold as it used to be
- Performance is spotty or intermittent – it will blow cold, but seems to cut out for a while before blowing cold again
- The floor is inexplicably wet (the water drain hole may be plugged)
- Excessive noise when the air conditioning is on
- Odor – if it smells like a musty gym locker when the AC is on, have the system inspected right away for mold or bacteria that likes to grow in dark, damp places like the evaporator.

Your ACDelco-affiliated facility can perform the inspection and necessary repairs on your vehicle's air conditioning system. It's the sure-fire way to keep cool this summer!

## Keep Your Cool

With the summer upon us, you'll likely rely more on your car's air conditioning system to keep you cool, but it's also important to ensure your vehicle's engine keeps its cool, too. If you've experienced overheating lately or your car's temperature gauge spends most of its time in the hot zone, have your vehicle inspected immediately. Overheating could be caused by many things, and could lead to serious and permanent damage to the engine. The increased load of turning on the air conditioning will only make it worse this summer.

If your car's temperature gauge swings into the hot zone while you're driving, turn off the air conditioning and turn the heater on full-blast – it will help dissipate some of the heat. If possible, keep the car moving, as air forced into the radiator may help cool the engine. If you're stopped and the car is overheating, DO NOT open the coolant reservoir tank or remove the radiator cap. You could be injured by hot, pressurized coolant/water that sprays out of the system.

**Bottom line:** If your vehicle has shown even the slightest tendency to run hot, have it inspected right away. It may just prevent your car – and you – from a meltdown.

## What's That Smell?

No one likes the odor of sulfur dioxide that is commonly associated with the smell of rotten eggs. Your vehicle can produce that smell if the exhaust system's catalytic converter doesn't properly or sufficiently process the sulfur that's contained in the gasoline. An occasional whiff of rotten eggs could be caused by greater sulfur content in the tank of gas you just bought, but if the odor persists or is constant, you'll want to have the vehicle inspected right away. A common misconception is that the odor indicates a faulty converter. Although that could be the case, there are other reasons and having the vehicle inspected as quickly as possible could save the converter and prevent a more costly repair. Besides, no one wants to drive a stinky car any longer than necessary!