

Did you know that 60 billion dollars worth of car maintenance goes unperformed every year?

Unperformed maintenance typically leads to more expensive trouble down the road, and with 90% of Americans relying on their vehicles for transportation, this is bad news for your wallet.

If you often find yourself in a debate about whether to send your car in for repairs today or wait till next month, you have come to the right place. Keep reading for auto-maintenance tips and trick everyone should know.

The Can It Wait Engine-Light Debate

We all know someone who has been driving with their check engine light on for years. But does that mean you're safe to do the same? It could be something as simple as a faulty fuse, but it could also be something more serious.

You can check your engine diagnostics at most auto parts stores for free. It's a good idea to know why the engine light got triggered before deciding to put off maintenance since postponing can lead to more problems.

Surface Level VS Emergency Issues

When something goes wrong, a good rule of thumb is to call a few different mechanics and compare notes. Sometimes, calling an auto parts store to ask for advice can be more helpful.

While it's a good idea to get anything abnormal looked at as soon as possible, there are a few things that can be postponed a little. Things like; oil changes, tire rotations, timing belt replacement, and other surface-level maintenance. However, even the surface-level issues should not be postponed longer than a month or two.

So, how do you know if your car is in serious trouble? If you experience any of the following, you should stop driving immediately.

- Your check engine light is flashing
- Your car unexpectedly turns off
- Any breaking issue
- The car overheats
- You have not had the car serviced for 12 months or more.

Pro-tip: Learn A Little About Your Car

It's a good idea to know what kind of engine oil your car needs, the symptoms of a faulty alternator, when a belt needs changing, what kind of squeaking is natural for brakes, and what means your brake pads are too worn down.

[Your car's manual](#) will give you make-and-model-specific information on parts, manufacturer's recommendations, and even information on belts and brakes. Showing that you have a little bit of knowledge about the specifics of your vehicle, could keep you from overpaying or paying for something that doesn't need fixing.

Online resources such as [autozone.com](https://www.autozone.com) (for parts), [auto.howstuffworks.com](https://www.auto.howstuffworks.com) (for repair), and [link](#) (auto repair service and blog) provide easily accessible and vehicle-specific information on what your car needs and when.

Prioritize Safety Over Procrastination

If you are on the fence about whether your vehicle could be a potential road hazard, you probably need to get it looked at. Save yourself the headache of a safety-vs-money-debate and educate yourself on the basics of your car and what it needs.

Check out the automobiles section of our blog for more information on vehicles and car repair.