

Fall Car Maintenance: What Most Drivers Forget to Check

Fall is the perfect time to catch small vehicle issues before colder weather turns them into costly repairs. Beyond oil changes and tire pressure, here are a few areas worth checking:

1. Watch Your Battery

Cold weather can reveal a weak battery. Slow starts, dim lights, or electrical issues may be early warning signs. A battery test can help prevent unexpected winter breakdowns.

2. Check Your Heater and Defroster

Your heater does more than keep you comfortable. If it warms up slowly, has unusual odors, or struggles to clear the windshield, it may need attention before temperatures drop.

3. Inspect for Summer Wear

Heat, road trips, potholes, and construction can affect tires, alignment, and suspension. Uneven tire wear, vibrations, or new noises should be checked before they worsen.

4. Monitor Vehicle Fluids

Fluid levels and condition both matter. Old coolant, dirty brake fluid, or leaks can impact performance and lead to larger repairs if left unchecked.

5. Clear Away Leaves and Debris

Leaves can block drainage areas, leading to leaks, corrosion, or electrical problems. A quick cleanup can help prevent future headaches.

Listen to Your Vehicle

Squealing, grinding, clicking, or humming noises often signal components beginning to wear. Addressing problems early can save time and money.

Start Winter With Confidence

A fall inspection helps ensure your vehicle is ready for colder starts, wet roads, and changing conditions. At Heartland Auto Repair, we can identify issues now and help prevent bigger repairs later.

Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader? - Fall Edition

Think you know all things autumn? Test your knowledge with these five fall-themed questions! (Answers are at the bottom—no cheating!)

1. Why do leaves change color in the fall?

- A. The tree stops making chlorophyll.
- B. Frost changes the color.
- C. Trees absorb different minerals.
- D. Rain changes the pigments.

2. Which of these animals does not truly hibernate during the winter?

- A. Groundhog
- B. Black Bear
- C. Chipmunk
- D. Bat

3. Which autumn fruit is a member of the rose family?

- A. Pumpkin
- B. Apple
- C. Persimmon
- D. Cranberry

4. What is the first official day of fall called?

- A. Autumn Rotation
- B. Harvest Moon
- C. Autumnal Equinox
- D. Solstice

5. Which U.S. state produces the most pumpkins each year?

- A. Illinois
- B. Missouri
- C. Ohio
- D. Pennsylvania



Heartland Auto Repair Inc.

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Customer Reviews

"Great customer service, the tech did a thorough diagnosis and left great notes for me. Very pleased."
- Bryan N

Customer of
the Month
SAHRA AND
CHARLIE BURNS
Thank You!

We Install

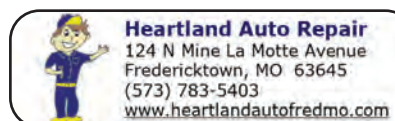


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Standard 5w-30 | 5 qts

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Full Synthetic | 5 qts



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Heartland Auto Repair Inc.

Client Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026

MANAGER'S MINUTE

Fall is here, and with cooler temperatures and winter weather not far behind, now is a great time to make sure your vehicle is ready for the season ahead.

Checking your tires, brakes, battery, fluids, and heating system now can help prevent unexpected problems later. Our team at Heartland Auto Repair is here to help keep you safe, comfortable, and confident on the road.

Thank you for trusting us with your vehicles and for continuing to support our local business.

We truly appreciate each of our customers and look forward to serving you this fall.

- The Heartland Auto Repair Team



September

U Y T L P R T R U S J Z N G B C X
W B E E B Z U L L A B T O O F B I
U Z C G K W Q Q S R Y F N C D F L
Z U R I L C T V E E O I T U I C O
B S J R S G A R M K R F I N Z Q O
I E D H K E G J K K B I A G Q T H
Y V W S Z G V A Z J L L F B K A C
T A Y M G O T I K G H B E N X W S
O E A R I V Z A R A P V F M O U O
X L D F M U W J R D J L S J U B T
E G R Y A B R V P E C D Q T M A K
V N O H C L E E M R R I C W I R C
B I B Z E S L B Z Y K S N Y Z B A
O L A Q T D W F G U J R X E M R B
B L L J U J S K D J V R E R C I Z
W A T O N U P M R E T A E W S S T
O F D T C F O Q Z Q J E G P Q Y O

back to school Falling Leaves final harvest
scenic drives labor day bonfires
football sweater jacket
Fall

Verse of the Month

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” – Titus 3:5-7

Bonus Savings

\$25 OFF* \$50 OFF* \$100 OFF*

Maintenance or service repair of \$250 or more Maintenance or service repair of \$500 or more Maintenance or service repair of \$1000 or more

*Cannot be combined with any other offer. See shop manager for details. Expires 9/30/26.

Back-to-School Special

\$10 OFF

ANY Recommended Service

Get a free Digital Vehicle Inspection with every service and get \$25 off any recommended service when scheduled SAME DAY. Must be within 30 days of original appointment. Expires 9/30/26.

7 Fall Car Care Tips

INSPECT TIRES

Snowy or icy roads are dangerous with worn tires. Replace tires with winter tires or check the pressure to ensure proper handling and braking.

FLUIDS

Keeping up on all fluid maintenance will ensure a smooth running vehicle in colder weather, have a technician check all fluid levels and change oil if needed.

BATTERY

Cold weather reduces your battery's capacity and makes it work harder to start. Let us test your battery or change it if it is more than 3 years old.

HEATER AND AC

Don't let fall and winter leave you out in the cold. Let one of our technicians check your heating and cooling system.

WIPERS & LIGHTS

Old wiper blades can cause low visibility in harsh weather. Increase visibility by having wipers replaced. Lights are essential for safe driving in harsh weather, be sure all lights are working properly to ensure

BRAKES

In harsh weather conditions it is best to have properly working brakes. Have a technician test and replace brakes and rotors if necessary.

HOSES AND BELTS

Have a technician make sure all hoses and belts are in working order, are not cracked, brittle, frayed, loose, or showing signs of excessive wear to avoid poor running quality.

Answers

1. **A** – As daylight decreases, trees stop producing chlorophyll, allowing the yellow, orange, and red pigments already in the leaves to become visible.
2. **B** – Black bears enter a state called torpor, which is different from true hibernation because they can wake more easily.
3. **B** – Apples are members of the rose family (Rosaceae), along with pears, peaches, and cherries.
4. **C** – The Autumnal Equinox marks the beginning of fall when day and night are nearly equal in length.
5. **A** – Illinois is the nation's leading pumpkin-producing state, growing more pumpkins than any other state in the U.S.

SCORING:

5/5: 🍁
Fall Expert

3-4: 🍂
Pumpkin Pro

1-2:
Better grab a pumpkin spice latte and try again!

FALL CROSSWORD



Across

1. Holiday often featuring turkey
5. Spooky holiday
7. Former military folks
9. Gather crops
13. Fall sport on gridiron
14. Another word for Fall
17. Chases birds away
18. September bank holiday
19. These fall off trees

Down

2. Fall spice
3. Gathers leaves
4. Burning woodpile
6. Month when Fall begins
8. Christopher _____ sailed in 1492.
10. Red fruit
11. Orange squash
12. Baseball finale
15. What changes in October
16. Fall nut

Cinnamon Swirl Pumpkin Bread Mini Loaves

This small batch pumpkin bread recipe has earned its spot as the most popular recipe on the blog! The mini loaves are packed with deep pumpkin flavor, a texture that stays moist for days, an abundance of fall spices, and a cinnamon swirl top that bakes into a sweet crunch. The bread is easily made in a variety of sizes – mini loaf pans, single-serve loaves, muffins, or one large loaf.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large egg
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ¼ cup brown sugar, light or dark
- ½ cup pure canned pumpkin any size - you will have leftovers
- ¼ cup canola oil or any neutral oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 ½ teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 to 3 tablespoons cinnamon sugar 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon for every 1 tablespoon of sugar

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350F degrees and adjust the oven rack to the middle position. Mini loaf pans: Lightly grease the pans and line with parchment paper - long enough to hang over the sides to use as a sling to lift the bread out of the pans. Brownie pan: line 5 of the wells with 1-inch strips of parchment that hang over the sides.
2. In a medium mixing bowl, add the egg, granulated sugar, brown sugar, pumpkin, oil, and vanilla. Whisk together until smooth.
3. Sift or sprinkle the flour, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice, and salt over the top of the wet ingredients. Whisk until no dry streaks remain. Tip - To sift the dry ingredients into the wet - set a fine mesh strainer over the bowl with the wet ingredients, add the dry ingredients into the strainer and sprinkle over the batter.
4. Scoop even amounts of batter into the prepared baking pan(s). Spoon a generous amount of cinnamon sugar over the batter. Gently swirl it just on the top of the batter with toothpick or knife.
5. Baking: in a brownie pan - 20 to 23 minutes; in 2 mini loaf pans - 28 to 30 minutes; or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out mostly clean. Cool thepumpkin bread in the pan set on a wire cooling rack for 10 to 15 minutes. Lift the bread out of the baking pan(s) to cool on the wire rack completely.

