

# Fleet Authority Monthly E-News

December 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4



Merry Christmas To All  
May You Experience Perfect Peace

## In This Issue:

**Newsletter Article:**  
Beat Old Man Winter

### December Discounts

- Wiper Coupon
- First Time Customer Discount

## Hours and Info:

**Hours of Operation**  
**Monday – Friday**  
9:00 AM Until 6:00 PM

**Virginia State Safety Inspections**  
All Makes & Models -  
even buses & large trucks  
9:00 AM until 5:00 PM

### All Major Credit Cards Accepted



### Contact Us

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**Find Us:**  
**3170 Draper Drive,**  
**Bay 10**  
**Fairfax, VA. 22031**

**Map/Directions:**  
Find Fleet Authority [Here](#)

## Fleet Authority Fixes Diesels Too!

- Servicing all makes & models of American and Import automobiles
- Full Service Diesel Engine Repair
- Specializing in van, SUV, bus & truck repairs
- Custom monthly maintenance plans for commercial customers available
- After hours key drop

## Beat Old Man Winter

Winter time is very unfriendly to a vehicle. Cold temperatures make it harder for an engine to work properly. Snow and ice limit traction. Potholes damage wheels and tires. Here are some easy steps to "winterize" your car. Fleet Authority offers year round 47 point inspections to evaluate all major vehicle systems but to prepare for winter, here are a few areas of your vehicle that need special attention.

**1. Check your tires.** The condition of your tires is critical during the winter. If the tires are too worn: braking, acceleration and handling are all negatively impacted while driving during ice and snow conditions. All season tires with adequate tread are a winter time must. Tire pressure is especially important during the winter. Traction is often at a minimum due to wet or snowy conditions. It is critical to have properly inflated tires, as this guarantees the best possible contact between the tire and the road. A properly inflated tire will also help protect against wheel damage could occur if you hit a pothole.

**2. Make sure your vehicle's four-wheel-drive system is working properly.** While a 4WD system requires minimal maintenance, it's still a good idea to check that it works properly before the onset of winter.

**3. Change the engine oil and adjust the viscosity grade.** As temperatures drop, your oil thickens, and thicker oil doesn't circulate as well in an engine during start-up. If the oil is too thick, the engine doesn't get the proper lubrication. Also, dirty oil doesn't circulate as well as clean oil. To solve this winter time problem, you can change your vehicle's engine oil to one that is thinner to begin with. Even when the thinner oil is cold, it is still not too thick for proper engine lubrication. Determining what type of oil your car should have during the winter is easy. Simply read your vehicle's owner's manual. Fleet Authority will happily perform an oil change, and Phil will advise you as to the type of oil to use in your vehicle.

**4. Inspect the belts and hoses.** The belts and hoses in modern cars lead long lives. But cold temperatures can accelerate the demise of a belt or hose. Have the belts and hoses inspected on your vehicle to check wear & tear.

**5. Inspect the wipers and wiper fluid.** Visibility is particularly key in winter, as it is often compromised by precipitation, salt buildup on the windshield and reduced daylight. The life expectancy of a wiper blade is one year. If your car's blades are older, replace them. Also check and fill your wiper fluid reservoir. A harsh winter storm is the worst possible time to run out of wiper fluid or to discover your blades aren't performing properly.

**6. Check the battery.** A battery gives little notice before it kicks off. Very cold temperatures can reduce a vehicle's battery power by up to 50 percent. If your vehicle battery is older than three years, have it tested at a certified automotive repair facility. Also, make sure the posts and connections are free of corrosion.

**7. Check antifreeze mixture.** Check the antifreeze level. The ideal mixture of antifreeze (coolant) and water inside your vehicle's radiator is 50:50. If the mixture deviates from this norm, then hot and cold weather performance can be compromised. If you were to put pure water in your vehicle's radiator, it would freeze at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. But if you combine the water with an equal amount of antifreeze, the new mixture won't freeze until -34 degrees Fahrenheit!

**8. Carry an emergency kit inside the car.** Here are some things you might want to consider carrying to keep your vehicle on the road this winter:

- A flashlight, flares and a first-aid kit, and paper towels.
- Jumper cables, a tool kit and tire chains.
- A blanket, warm clothes and gloves.
- A bag of abrasive material such as: sand, salt or non-clumping kitty litter.
- A snow brush, ice scraper and snow shovel.
- Extra washer fluid, coolant and engine oil

## December Discounts

For easy printing download the attached coupons

**10%  
Discount  
on labor & parts**

With your first visit to  
**Fleet Authority**



Keep more **MONEY** in  
your wallet

Coupon Valid Until  
01-31-2010

**Wet Weather Sale**

**Wiper Blades**  
**\$ 18.95**  
Per Pair Installed  
(Up to 21 Inches)

Includes Most Domestic & Import Car & LT.  
Truck Models.  
Sales Tax Extra.

Coupon Valid Until 01-31-2010

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Questions or Comments? E-mail us at [info@fleetauthority.com](mailto:info@fleetauthority.com) or call 703-691-2100