



Clean Honest Workmanship
Serving The Community Since 1958

When I first started working for ST Foreign Auto, I have to admit I had very little car experience. I make the joke that I 'don't speak car' because, listening to the techs talk in the garage, it did sound like a foreign language to me. However, the 'language of numbers' I do speak, and very well. One of the things that came as a big surprise to me is how very little people know about their own cars. I will explain:

Our shop deals with repair and maintenance of foreign and high-end cars, ie: Mercedes Benz, Porsche, BMW, Audi, Lexus, to the down-to-earth cars like VW and Honda. What all these cars have in common is that it takes specialized techs and equipment to work on them. From techs trained in specific foreign models to computer equipment that is capable of hooking up with the main designer computers and fast enough to complete complicated downloads, you can't get any closer to the factory that built your cars without driving to Sweden, Germany, etc. yourself.

This having been said, today's cars, either big buck cars or el cheapos, ARE computers. A delicate balance of internal combustion parts and fiber optic nuances that come together to drive our families and us to wherever we need to be. We, as a whole, take care of our personal computers internally by backing-up, firewalling, anti-virus-ing; and externally by dusting our keyboards, vacuuming out fan vents and not having our 5-yr-old granddaughter eat ice cream at the desk and having sticky keys afterwards (or is that just me?). Our cars deserve the same consideration.

Time after time customers have come in and said, "I didn't know" when it came to something wrong with their car. Let's answer some most frequent questions right now:

Yes, oil changes and basic maintenance are VERY important for your vehicle. Like a computer, files need to be deleted and re-indexed. Oil that isn't changed can and WILL permanently damage your engine. The pistons that power your car need to be freshly lubricated to maintain peak performance. Forgive me if I sound like a commercial, but it is true. Oil will turn into sludge and mud up the whole engine performance. If left long enough, it will damage pistons and begin a cascade of parts failing and engine repair bills racking up, least of which is very poor gas mileage performance.

The same theory applies to maintenance at x-amount of miles. The designers of the car have done extensive research into how long individual parts work and how well they interact with others as part of the 'team' of the engine. Mileage maintenance standards have been set by each manufacturer of your car. Rotating tires, flushing transmission, fresh filters, etc. are all integral parts of your car. Engines that are choked by clogged filters don't get the air needed to combust, tires that are out of balance will pull to one side or shake thereby throwing off alignments, and transmissions tell your car to go forward or backward, no fluid or clogs make car no-go.

If you think regular maintenance is something that auto shops made up just to make money from the consumer, I could run the numbers for you. For the cost of 7 years normal maintenance on your car versus the cost of a new engine or the decrease in trade-in value when you try to buy a new one, but I think you can figure it out.

One last point: If we expect to hop in our car, start it, and drive wherever we need, at a moment's notice, in any weather, at any time of day, no excuses accepted... then we need to give our vehicles what it needs to live up to our expectations.