

What Could Happen When Vehicles Sit Too Long

Working from home might be terrific for you but a sedentary life is something entirely different for your car.

Your vehicle was built to *zip* you along Pittsburgh's roads but these days many vehicles are sitting for days at a time inside garages or, worse yet, hanging out in driveways without protection where they are vulnerable to all types of weather.

Cars were built to move. They are at their best when the fluids are flowing and well-oiled gears are turning and the rubber is literally hitting the road. Sitting idle for extended periods of time can cause serious damage.

Your car at rest can quickly deteriorate. This is something many of us don't even think about. That's why I want to educate you to the perils of an inactive car. It is vital that you make sure that problems caused by under-using your vehicles are addressed so your vehicles remain well maintained, roadworthy, and safe for your family. Here are some things that can go wrong.

Rusty Brakes + Icy Roads = Trouble

Brake rust is common. One type can be easily fixed but the other is very dangerous. The first type is a thin layer of rust that forms when the vehicle is exposed to moisture like rain. This rust can be eliminated just by driving. Removing this rust is one of the brake pad's jobs. After one or two trips, the brake pads will rub off the rust. The second type of rust – the worst kind – causes deep pitting in the metal. It occurs when vehicles



have been sitting idle for a long time. This rust has the time to eat through the metal and seriously compromise

Here's the worst part — critters who have made your idle car their home can scurry across your dashboard or leap from under your seat while you are driving!

the brakes. It may result in the brakes seizing up on the next drive. If you aren't confident your brakes are safe, bring your vehicle to Chuck's for an inspection before you have to depend upon them to stop on icy roads.

Tired & Tattered Tires

Tires are happiest and healthiest when they are rolling down the road.

They can maintain their shape and tire pressure under normal driving conditions. But let your vehicle sit for a long time and those tires will react badly to all that weight above. They will become deflated, flat, warped, and develop bubbles, all of which are unsafe. Tire bubbles, for example, can cause a blowout, especially at high speeds. Ed will know what to do. If your vehicle has been sitting for a long time, bring it to Chuck's and let him take a look at those tires.

Out of Juice

An inactive vehicle allows your battery to drain and that is what provides your machine all the power. A battery is recharged every time you drive your car, but let it idle and the power drains away.



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Out of Juice

Also, over long periods of underuse, the sulfuric acid in the battery breaks down and creates sulfate crystals which causes a flat battery. In addition to requiring a jump to get going, this condition will shorten the battery's life. The battery can be re-charged, but it won't work very well consistently once the acid has been crystalized. You should never leave your car unused for more than one week. Drive about a half hour to charge your battery.

Leaking Fluids

Moisture can collect inside the gas tank of a vehicle that is at extended rest, and water and gas do not mix, they separate when vehicles sit for a long time. The water sinks to the bottom while the fuel rises to the top. When this occurs, you may have trouble starting your car. Or, if you do manage to get it on the road, the vehicle could buck or stall while you are driving. Over time, this will also lead to the gas tank corroding from the inside out. Other fluids from gasoline and motor oil to power steering, brake, and transmission fluid can break down over time in an under-used vehicle. Your vehicle's hoses and gaskets can also dry out, weaken, or fail which will result in fluids leaking out.

Invaders! Look Out!

A vehicle that's been sitting too long is a "Welcome Home" sign for creepy crawlies. Critters move right in vehicles that are idle for long periods. That includes cockroaches, spiders, squirrels, woodchucks, opossums, racoons, rats and mice, and even snakes. They're just looking for a place to get out of the weather but some of them really make themselves at home by building nests and dining on your vehicle's hoses, wires and other critical parts. Also, rats mark their territory with urine and that smell is hard to remove. Sometimes – and this is really the worst part – they can appear on the dashboard or scurry from under your seat while you are driving. Eliminating these invaders is not easy. They scoff at eviction notices. So drive your vehicle a few times a week so they don't get too comfortable.

What You Can Do

It's a myth that you can keep an idle vehicle in good condition by starting it every couple of days. Idling it in one place or driving very short distances won't help either. You need to drive twice a week at long enough distances for the vehicle to reach full operating temperature to keep your vehicle fit.

Fix It, Repair It, Make it All Better Come to Chuck's!

If you aren't driving your vehicles at least twice a week, call Jamie and make an appointment to bring them to Chuck's for a good checkup before you take any trips or family drives. Some of damage that is caused by an inactive vehicle is serious and dangerous. Let the best mechanics in Pittsburgh – Doug, Sean, and Vince -- make sure your cars, SUVs, and light trucks are family safe!

Chuck's State Inspection RULES

Okay, maybe not rules so much as suggestions we make with great hope: *Please, Please, Please*, drop off your registration and insurance cards when you drop off your keys for a vehicle inspection, Or, put those vital cards in the after-hours drop box with your keys. Think keys + Registration and Insurance Cards! This will help so much!

Copy this coupon and share it with family and friends!

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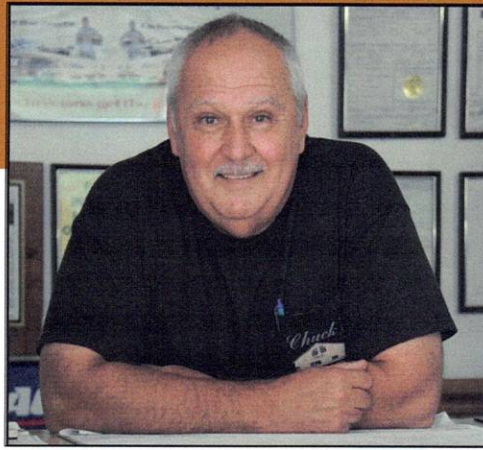
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Upper St Clair, PA 15241

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What's New



at Chuck's?

A lot of you have teenagers who recently became licensed drivers and that got me thinking about how parents might protect them from hazards that they are too inexperienced to know are problems. So I'd like to pass along some safety tips before your teen drivers have to navigate Pittsburgh's snowy and ice-covered roads.

Experts tell us that parents have more control than we realize, so how and when our teens drive may be a good place for us to exert some parental authority. **That includes deciding if and when your teen should be on the road.**

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that 24 percent of weather related vehicle crashes result on snowy or icy roads every year, and 15 percent occur during snowfall or sleet. Every year these accidents cause 1,300 fatalities and 116,800 injuries. **Educate your teen to safe driving techniques in inclement weather, on icy roads, on black ice, and in slush. Best of all, require that your teens stay home when the**

roads are bad or when it's snowing.

Night time driving is riskier for everyone, but particularly for teen drivers. A national survey found that drivers aged 16-19 were nearly three times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes at night than 30-59-year-olds. **Restrict night driving for the first six months. Practice night time driving when you think your teen is ready.**

Young adults have the lowest seat belt use rates. One study reported that 43 percent of high school students did not wear a seat belt while riding with peers. **Educate your teen that seat belts reduce the risk of dying or being seriously injured in a crash by about half. Require they use them every time they are in any car.**

Texting remains a dangerous issue. One study found that 39 percent of high school students who

were questioned had texted or emailed while driving at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey. **Establish a rule: When you are in the car, the cell phones ride in the glove compartment.**

Risks for accidents go up when the new driver has teen passengers. **Limit your teen drive to none or only one teen passenger for at least the first six months.**

Consider a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement. Teens promise to obey the rules of the road, never text while driving, never drive impaired, stay within the speed limit, and other good practices. The Center for Disease Control has an agreement that can be downloaded from their website.

All of us at Chuck's wish good driving practices and safety on the road for all our friends and family!

**Winner of the
FREE Oil Change!
Margaret Butzler
Of Bethel Park!**

You've won a free oil change!
Congratulations from
all of us at Chuck's!

Chuck's Supports These Fine Charities!

Chuck and Lynn are still personally donating as private individuals to all the charities they once supported through Chuck's. Chuck's new owners will continue the Chuck's tradition and are making donations through the business to some charities. Here are the cumulative totals for the charities that the business is supporting this quarter:

\$27,835 to FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS for research on disease and degenerative vision conditions.

\$3,750 to OPERATION HOME-FRONT which offers financial assistance, transitional housing and other programs to help military families in need.

3,070 phones to CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS which recycles them to buy phone cards so soldiers serving

overseas may call home for free.

1,223 pairs of your donated prescription glasses to ONE SIGHT which distributes them to people with vision loss in the U.S. and around the world.

\$22,725 to SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement). Chuck's is a Corporate Sponsor and donates for every new customer. We also participate in seasonal drives.



Chuck's

**COMPLETE
AUTO SERVICE**

75 McMurray Road, Upper St Clair, PA 15241

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Did YOU win a **FREE** Oil Change? P.3

New Teen Driver?

You Need to Know This. P.3

Your Warranties are **SAFE** when you Service your **NEW** Vehicles at **Chuck's!**

Thanks to a strong consumer rights law—the Magnuson-Moss Act—you may take your brand new vehicles to Chuck's for service without voiding any of your warranties! This consumer protection law stipulates that your warranties stay in effect, providing you take your vehicles to repair shops that use quality products and provide

work by professional mechanics. You know Chuck's ASE-trained and certified mechanics are among the best in the business. Bring your new cars to Chuck's. Doug, Sean, and Vince will give your new vehicles the same quality care they've given your older cars for years. Ask us how this law can protect you.

www.chuckscompleteautoservice.com

Email: chucksappt@gmail.com

Find Chuck's Complete Auto Service on Facebook

412-831-2510

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday 8 am to 5:30 pm

Closed Saturdays and Sundays



Coming in for a vehicle inspection?

Please bring your vehicle registration and insurance cards into the office or put them in the after-hours drop box with your keys.

We Would Appreciate it!

Your opinion means a lot to us. We'd like to ask you to leave a review on Google, Yelp, or Facebook if you are pleased with our service. If you are not pleased, let us know and we will address your concerns personally. Thank you!