

# Minor maintenance makes big difference

*When it comes to long life for your car, it's all about the oil*

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The one thing car and truck owners all want is to make their vehicle last as long as possible.

A few decades ago, getting more than 150,000 kilometres out of a vehicle's engine without a rebuild was a challenge. Now, many go past 300,000 without many problems.

Bill Gardiner, an automotive technician who appears regularly on TSN's *Motoring 2012* show, says many of his customers have cars with more than 200,000 kilometres on the odometer.

Gardiner also services and repairs airport limousines used at Pearson Airport in Toronto, many of which have far more kilometres than the average customer's car.

If you maintain your vehicle properly, "you'll get tired of it long before you wear it out," Gardiner said.

Car Care Canada says the average age of a car on Canadian roads is 8.46 years, with more than 100,000 km on the odometer.

The organization says 85

per cent of those cars require maintenance and 20 per cent have low, dirty or overfull oil.

Gardiner said key parts of that maintenance are regular oil and filter changes. Besides the oil filter, the air filter also needs to be changed.

In addition to changing the air filter, Gardiner recommends cleaning the filter housing, because the bottom of the housing below the filter can collect a considerable amount of dirt and debris. Cleaning the housing will ensure the new filter stays clean longer.

After removing the filter from the housing, he suggests using a shop vacuum cleaner to clean out the bulk of the debris.

Once that's done, the do-it-yourselfer could wash out the housing with soap and water.

The housing should be allowed to drain and dry before reinstalling the filter.

Quaker State, which has marketed oil for high-mileage vehicles for several years, has raised the bar with its new Defy oil.

"The product features higher levels of heat-activated anti-wear additives so that from the

date that Quaker State Defy is put into service, it prevents up to 98 per cent of future metal-to-metal wear," said Chris Hayek, Quaker State global brand manager.

"These anti-wear additives target high-temperature and high-wear surfaces where they are needed most, making Quaker State Defy ideal for consumers who want a higher level of protection or who own high-mileage vehicles," Hayek said.

Gardiner said zinc is important in preventing wear, especially where engine parts face high heat and pressure. Quaker State researchers have found a way to double the zinc content in Defy.

Previously, zinc would vaporize and be drawn into the positive crankcase ventilation (PCV) system and burned. The burning of zinc would foul oxygen sensors and catalytic converters.

But the research has found ways to avoid that problem while doubling the amount of zinc.

In recent years, Quaker State offered a cash reward for vehicles that reached 400,000 km using Quaker State oil.

Gardiner said the first payment was recently made to a Canadian motorist for surpassing the 400,000 km total.

The motorist received \$3,000, the current blue-book value for the vehicle.

While flat tires are rare today, Gardiner offered some advice about safely changing tires on the highway.

If the tire deflates at highway speeds, it is likely ruined, so the driver shouldn't be concerned about driving to reach a place to pull as far out of the driving lane as possible, he said. When possible, a companion should watch traffic as the tire is changed and be ready to warn if a collision appears imminent.

A number of devastating crashes in the United States involving police cars stopped on the highway shoulder during traffic enforcement illustrate the danger of rear-end collisions along highways.

Gardiner said he recently attended an event where Ford unveiled its new police interceptor which is designed to withstand a 120 km/h rear impact without injury to the police officer inside the vehicle.

For more information on Quaker State products, visit [quakerstate.com](http://quakerstate.com).

Gardiner suggests two websites for information on car care: [carcarecanada.com](http://carcarecanada.com) and [motoringtv.com](http://motoringtv.com) — look for tips and Bill's Garage on the Motoring website.