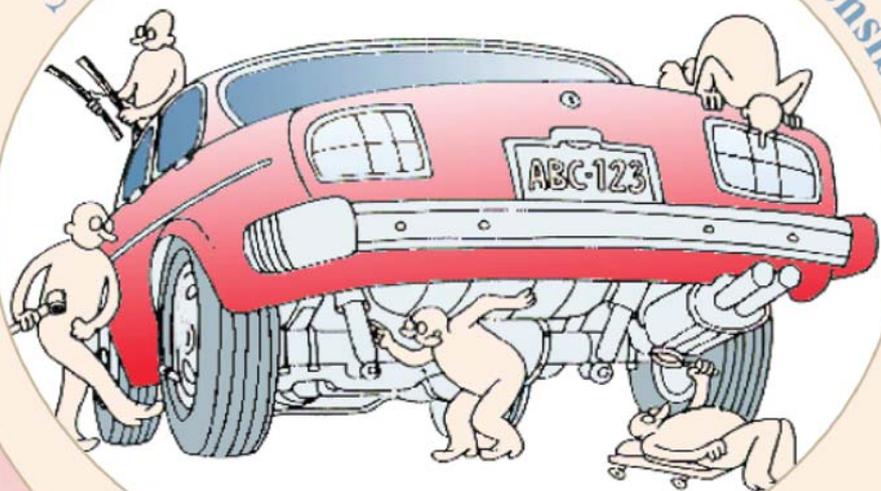


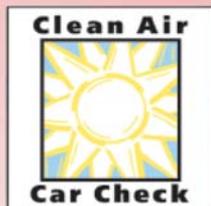
CAR CARE 101

Saving Money and the Air with Responsible Car Care



**Northwestern Indiana
Regional Planning Commission**

"Together we make the difference"



Introduction

It's no secret that we depend on our cars. They take us to the store and across the state. They are our traveling homes, complete with sleeping babies and snacks and even entertainment. Taking good care of them ensures that they will take good care of us for hundreds or thousands of miles to come.

Good car maintenance is crucial to keeping our cars safe, but, in addition, good maintenance also improves gas mileage, extends the vehicle's life, prevents major break-downs, increases resale value, and even improves our air quality.

Unfortunately, many folks shy away from basic car maintenance, afraid that they don't know how or don't have the time. The truth is that basic car maintenance is easy and the benefits are great.

This book will help get you on the road to excellent vehicle maintenance. Inside you will find helpful hints on everything from checking the air pressure in your tires to finding a mechanic you can trust. You'll also find tracking charts and logs to help you keep up your good car care routine.

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Car Care Tips

- 1. Keep the tires inflated to the manufacturer-recommended pressure.** You can find the proper pressure in the inside edge of the driver's door, inside the glove box, inside the gas cap, or in the owner's manual. Some tires may look fine even when need inflation, so make sure to check all four tires every two weeks with a tire gauge.
- 2. Make sure all maintenance is performed on time,** especially regular tune-ups. A poorly tuned car can waste 10-20% of its fuel.
- 3. Have your oil changed every 3,000 miles!** Oil reduces friction within the engine, which increases gas mileage.
- 4. Make sure that the air filter is changed when needed.** A clogged air filter can cause a 10% increase in fuel consumption.
- 5. Check your gas cap to be sure it fits tightly.** If you're not sure, free gas cap testing is offered during any free vehicle emissions testing throughout the region. Call (888) 240-1684 for more information.
- 6. Look out behind you!** If your car's exhaust is sending out smoke signals, you may have an oil leak or an improper gasoline-air mixture in the engine. Have it checked out.
- 7. Reduce fuel consumption during highway driving by using overdrive and/or cruise control.** Also, keep the windows closed on the highway, open windows create drag and reduce gas mileage.
- 8. Unpack the junk!** If you're known for carrying a carful of junk—unpack it! The more weight your car carries, the worse your gas mileage will be.
- 9. When driving in town, obey the speed limit and avoid jackrabbit starts.** Putting the pedal to the metal will cost you at the pump!
- 10. Use sunshades** to keep your car cooler while it's parked. It will decrease the amount of air conditioning you have to use to make the car comfortable. Air conditioning taxes the engine and uses extra gas. (If you're driving in town, try to turn off the air conditioning and let the breeze cool you down. Not on the highway, though—see tip #7.)

Tracking Gas Mileage

It is important to constantly keep track of your gas mileage because a drop in gas mileage is an excellent indicator that something might be wrong with your car. Keeping track of the gas mileage you get with normal driving will help you to know when a malfunction has occurred.

Tracking your gas mileage will also show you when your driving habits are most efficient. You will notice that you get better mileage when you:

- Avoid “jackrabbit” starts – quick starts use up a lot of gas.
- Unpack the junk – the more weight your vehicle carries, the more gas it uses to move.
- Keep your tires properly inflated – under-inflated tires can significantly reduce your mileage.

Five simple steps are all that is necessary to figure out your vehicle’s gas mileage. Use the instructions below and the charts on the following pages to track your gas mileage each time you fill up the tank.

1. First, record the date you are making the entry in the first column. This way, if your gas mileage takes a nose-dive, you’ll know approximately when something went wrong.
2. Second, write your current mileage reading from your odometer in the Odometer Reading column.
3. Next subtract your last odometer reading from the one you just entered. The difference is how many miles you’ve traveled since you last filled up. Enter this number in the Miles Traveled Column.
4. Record the number of gallons that you just pumped in the Gallons column.
5. Finally, divide the Miles Driven by the Gallons and you’ll get your Miles Per Gallon gas mileage. Enter this in the last column, and keep track of how you do each week.

Alternative Fuel Sources

Today the United States imports over half of its oil, yet the overall use of gasoline continues to increase. The U.S. spends about \$2 billion a week on oil imports, mostly for transportation fuel. However, a large portion of the public is unaware of the up-and-coming gasoline alternatives. The following are some new options that may be available in your area:

- **Ethanol 85 (E85)** is an alcohol-based alternative fuel made up of a mixture of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. It is produced by the fermentation of plant sugars, primarily those of corn, barley and wheat; it can also be produced from “cellulosic biomass” such as trees and grasses. E85 was created by the U.S. Department of Energy to be renewable, domestic, environmentally friendly energy. Toxic emissions, most notably carbon monoxide, are greatly reduced when using E85 instead of fossil fuels. This fuel also has the potential to enhance the United States economy to promote energy independence. For a complete listing of E85 compatible vehicles and for a retailer near you visit www.e85fuel.com.



- **Biodiesel** is a domestically produced alternative fuel made from vegetable oils, animal fats, and recycled restaurant grease. It can be used alone as a diesel fuel (100% Biodiesel- B100) or mixed with regular diesel. The most commonly distributed version of Biodiesel is B20, a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% petroleum diesel fuel. A study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed that biodiesel could help decrease emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by up to 78%. When carbon dioxide (CO₂) from biodiesel is released, it is then recycled by plants as nutrients. Biodiesel is entirely biodegradable. For more information on biodiesel visit the official website at www.biodiesel.org.



Other alternative fuel sources are being developed, but haven't yet reached the point of distribution. To keep up to date on these alternatives fuel

possibilities visit the U.S. Department of Energy at www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities, or for more localized information on alternative fuel in north-west Indiana go to www.southshorecleancities.org.



Helpful Phone Numbers and Information

Emergency

911

Local Police (non-emergency) _____

Local Sherriff _____

For police departments non-emergency numbers, check the first few pages of your local phone book, then write the number in the space provided.

Indiana State Police

(800)-261-7623

Hoosier Helpers FREE Roadside Assistance 911

Request Hoosier Helpers assistance upon talking to a 911 operator.

For realtime traffic updates see: <http://www.in.gov/dot/div/trafficwise/>

In Case of an Accident

The first priority in any accident is to make sure that everyone involved is not injured. If there is any doubt about someone's health, **immediately call 911** or ask a bystander to do so.

You may choose to call a police officer to the scene by dialing the police non-emergency number. If a police officer arrives at the scene, he or she will collect statements from all drivers involved as well as their personal and insurance information. The officer will use that information to create a police report about the accident and will give you the identification number of that report and will let you know when and where you can pick up that report for your records or insurance purposes.

Even if a police officer is not at the scene, all drivers involved will need to exchange personal and insurance information, including full name, address and phone number, driver's license number, and vehicle plate number. Last, but not least, contact your insurance agent to report the accident.

Oil Changes

Oil changes are critical because fresh oil helps engine parts run smoothly. Less friction between engine parts keeps the engine running efficiently.

A standard oil change should include complete replacement of all the oil in the engine, replacement of the oil filter, and lubrication of the steering linkage, or “lube”.

The correct oil for your vehicle should be listed in your owner’s manual. Oils are described by letters and numbers, such as 10W40, a common oil used in many vehicles today. The first number (before the W) indicates the oil’s viscosity when temperatures are cold, and the second indicates the viscosity when the engine is hot. The W just stands for “winter,” a reminder that the first viscosity number is the one for cold weather. The reason oils have two different viscosities is to help the engine will run efficiently whether it’s hot or cold.

If your vehicle is a high-performance vehicle, such as a Chevrolet Corvette or a Dodge Viper, for example, your manufacturer may dictate that synthetic oil must be used. In this case you could void your warranty if you fill up with non-synthetic, so always check your owner’s manual before getting the oil changed. There are advantages to using synthetic even when the owner’s manual says you can use regular, though. Synthetic oils start cleaner, run longer, and protect engine parts better. If you have synthetic oil, you can also go longer between oil changes, sometimes even twice as many miles!

Whether you have the oil changed by a shop or you change it yourself, you must make sure that the used oil is NEVER dumped down a drain. One quart of oil can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. The best way to deal with used oil is to recycle it. Oil should be collected in a clean, dry container that can be sealed once full of oil. Do not mix used oil with any other fluids or substances. Most auto mechanic shops and auto supply or maintenance stores will accept used oil and oil filters free of charge and send it to be recycled. Always be sure to check with the shop that’s going to change your oil to make sure that they recycle used oil and oil filters or take your oil to any of the local Household Waste Collection Programs in the region. (See page 16 for details.)

Tire Care

Taking good care of your tires is important for safety reasons as well as gas savings. Tires that are properly inflated and not over-worn will help your vehicle stop quickly when you apply the brakes, will help you handle better, and will help you save money at the pump. A few tire facts:

- Tires can lose one pound per square inch (psi) of pressure each month, even under normal conditions.
- Temperature changes can cause a greater loss, up to one psi per 10 degrees the temperature drops.
- Under-inflation not only causes excessive drag, which reduces fuel mileage, it also causes the tires to be overloaded, which makes them wear out faster.
- “Tread depth” is how deep the grooves in the tire are. Good tread depth ensures that the tires will hold the road safely even in wet weather. To check your tread depth, put a penny into one of the tire’s treads; the tread should be deep enough that it touches Lincoln’s head.

Under Pressure

You can find the proper pressure in the inside edge of the driver’s door, inside the glove box, inside the gas cap, or in the owner’s manual. The recommendation will read XX psi (pounds per square inch). Note that recommended pressure may be different for the front and rear tires.

Check your tires’ inflation by unscrewing the caps on the valve stems, and attaching a tire pressure gauge. Inflate tires to the recommended pressure by removing the tire pressure gauge and attaching an air hose. Fill the tires with air, checking frequently with the gauge to see if you’ve reached the recommended pressure. If you accidentally over-fill the tires, simply depress the pin inside the valve stem and check again with the gauge.

Some tires may look fine even when need inflation, so make sure to check all four tires every two weeks with a tire gauge, and keep track of all tire maintenance in the chart on the next page.

Also take time to check your tread depth. If the tread is too shallow or the tires appear worn, get them changed before you have a flat or a blow out that could cause a serious accident.

Other Important Checks

Transmission Fluid

Transmission fluid services are suggested both by car manufacturers and auto repair shops. Transmissions will vary from year to year and model to model. Check the manufacturer's service recommendations when replacing fluid or equipment.

The level of your transmission fluid is very important. Over-filling your transmission fluid can cause loss of transmission performance and under-filling can cause overheating and slipping. When you want to check or refill your transmission fluid, the vehicle should be completely cold and parked on a level area. If necessary, add transmission fluid slowly and check intermittently so that you will prevent over-filling.

Transmission fluid, like most other automobile fluids and lubricants, is toxic and must be disposed of properly. Transmission fluid should be collected in a container that can be sealed. Do not mix transmission fluid with any other fluids. Northwest Indiana has several collection sites managed by the Lake Michigan Districts Household Waste Collection Program, call them at your corresponding county for more information:

Lake County 1-800-946-4449

Laporte County 219-326-1425

Porter County 219-465-3694

Many automotive repair shops will also accept used oil, fluid, or anti-freeze and correctly dispose of them.

Air Filter

The air filter provides clean, unrestricted air flow to the engine. The engine must have the right amount of clean air in order to burn the fuel properly and get the best gas mileage possible. Air filters generally last 12-15,000 miles, but they should be checked at every oil change to make sure that they haven't been damaged or contaminated.

Fuel Filter

The fuel filter takes impurities or contamination out of the gasoline before it enters the combustion chamber, where it might do damage. Fuel filters typically last for approximately 30,000 miles, but one bad tank of gas (for instance, if the gasoline has been contaminated with water) can severely shorten a fuel filter's normal life expectancy.

How to Know When to Go to a Mechanic

The best way to know when something is wrong with your vehicle is to know how it runs when everything has just been checked. Once you know how your vehicle sounds and performs when everything is fine, new noises or performance problems will stand out like a sore thumb.

The best way to describe a performance loss or problem is to focus on these noises or performance “symptoms.” The more you know about your car, the better you can describe the new symptom to a mechanic who will help diagnose the problem and repair the vehicle.

New or unusual noises are common indicators that something is wrong with your vehicle. A low hum could be an axle bearing problem, but it might also only be a problem with a tire. Screeching noises could be brake pads in need of replacement, a loose belt, or a vacuum leak, among other problems. Being able to describe the noise and tell the professional when the noise occurs (when braking, for example) is important, but it’s more important just to get the vehicle checked as soon as possible.

Noises or vibrations during braking need to be checked out as quickly as possible. Brakes are life-savers, so don’t risk brake problems by putting off a check-up on a new noise.

You should also get the vehicle checked, or at least refer to your owner’s manual, whenever you notice new symbols lighted up on your dash display. Often a new dash light is an indicator that your vehicle needs a small repair or even just a fill-up on your fluids. One light to get familiar with is your “Check Engine” light. This light is connected to your vehicle’s on-board computer, and a mechanic will be able to tap into that on-board computer to see exactly what’s wrong with the vehicle.

If the steering should become tight, the vehicle pulls to one side or the other, or you feel vibration at certain speeds, you may have a problem with your tires or need a front end alignment. Have small problems checked before they turn into big problems that require expensive repairs.

Last but not least, don’t risk getting stranded by putting off a visit to a mechanic when your car begins to have difficulty starting. Remember, it’s best to schedule a visit to a mechanic as soon as you notice a symptom because you can never schedule a breakdown—they just happen.

Finding a Good Mechanic

Just as important as a good family doctor is a trustworthy auto repair facility. But with so many to choose from, how do you find the right one?

A few simple steps can often help this upsetting experience turn out some dream results rather than nightmarish tales. Try these sure-fire tips to find a trustworthy repair facility.

1. Get referrals from friends or relatives. This is one of the most secure methods of trying a new shop.
2. Call the Better Business Bureau to gain a rating of repair businesses in your area, or visit them at www.bbb.com.
3. Credentials are important, too, so take time to go by and visit shops to get a feel of their abilities. Frequently, you can “know before you go” by checking yellow page ads and web sites like www.carcare.org for this information.
4. Today’s vehicles are so complicated that it has become increasingly important that good automotive technicians become and remain ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certified. To check references try: www.asecert.org or call your local chamber of commerce.
5. Remember that all good work deserves some type of warranty and good shops will always have that.
6. Finally, you may want to try out a new shop with some small task that you can have done at your convenience— don’t wait until you have a major breakdown. Grade the facility on cleanliness, punctuality, helpful suggestions, price, and a good job on what you asked to be done.

Once you feel comfortable with a shop, visit often enough to build a relationship. This way they can better serve your need and your personal car.

If you ever do have a problem dealing with a shop, you can check the shop’s history or lodge complaints at www.indianaconsumer.com (State Attorney General) or www.bbb.com (Better Business Bureau).

Reduce Stress and Save Money on Your Commute

Americans take over 1.1 billion trips per day- or an average of about 4 trips per person. The typical American spends at least 55 minutes behind the wheel of a car on a daily basis and 87% of the time he or she is driving a personal vehicle. (Bureau of Transportation Statistics) Some other interesting facts about drivers in northwest Indiana reveal that:

- More than **80%** of workers drive to work alone, while only **10%** carpool. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- The average worker in northwest Indiana spends **310 hours per year** driving to and from work. (U.S. Census Bureau)

According to the Internal Revenue Service, for 2005, the average cost per mile of driving alone is 48.5 cents. This cost accounts for many of the “hidden” costs not considered in other estimates, including maintenance and insurance costs. Using this cost per mile estimate, it’s easy to calculate the cost of your commute. Follow the steps below to calculate your annual commute cost.

_____ miles driven to work x 2 = _____ daily commute miles

DAILY COMMUTE COST

_____ daily commute miles x \$0.485 = _____ daily commute cost

WEEKLY COMMUTE COST

_____ daily commute cost x 5 days/week = _____ weekly commute cost

MONTHLY COMMUTE COST

_____ daily commute cost x 22 days/month = _____ monthly commute cost

ANNUAL COMMUTE COST

_____ daily commute cost x 250 days/year = _____ annual commute cost

Don't forget to add parking fees to your commute costs!



What is Share the Drive?

Share the Drive is a program designed to help you find a less expensive, less stressful, and

less-polluting way to get to work. These services are FREE for the public and employers because they are sponsored by the Chicago Area Transportation Study.

What can Share the Drive do for ME?

- *Carpooling*- They provide a free ride-matching service that will connect you with other drivers who share the same commute-route and are interested in carpooling. They provide this service for the general public and will also support employers in developing ride share services.
- *Vanpool*- They also provide information on vanpool opportunities for people with a one-way commute of at least 15 miles and who work regular schedules. Vanpool groups range in size from four to 15 people. More information on vanpooling is located at: www.pacebus.com or www.vanpoolusa.com
- *Employee Transportation Coordination* – We provide free employee transportation coordination materials and assistance for companies that would like to reduce their employees’ commute stress through:
 - Flex-Time
 - Telecommuting
 - Compressed Work Schedule
 - Vanpooling
 - Bicycling & Walking Programs

To find out more, contact:

Chicago Area Transportation Study
300 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60606
(312) 793-3456 // FAX: (312) 793-3481
www.sharethedrive.org



Taking Transit

The South Shore Line is an electrically powered interurban streetcar line operated by the Northern Indiana

Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) between Randolph Street Terminal in downtown Chicago, Illinois and the South Bend Regional Airport in South Bend, Indiana. It is one of the only surviving interurban streetcar lines in the United States and has been operating since 1903. It currently has a ridership of over 3.5 million passengers per year.

The South Shore Line offers a variety of tickets. The most common is a one-way fare between two stations. Discounts are offered for seniors over 65, children under 13, and the disabled. Monthly passes are available for each calendar month and the South Shore Line also offers 10 to 25-ride punch tickets.

NICTD One-Way Fares to Randolph Station (As of August 2006)

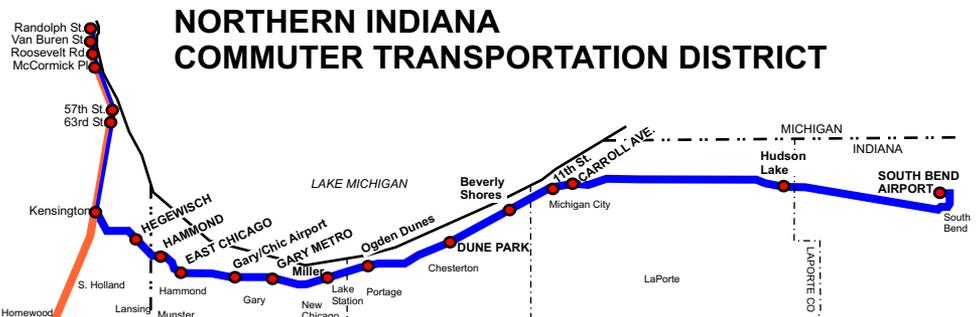
	Station	Cost
1	Hammond/East Chicago	\$4.65
2	Gary/Miller	\$5.40
3	Portage/Ogden Dunes	\$6.50
4	Michigan City	\$7.70



For directions, train schedules, and fares call: (800) 356-2079 or visit www.nictd.com

NICTD Contact Information

Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District • Customer Service Department • 33 East U.S. Highway 12 • Chesterton, IN 46304



Bicycling & Walking

Benefits of Bicycling and Walking

Bicycling and walking are great ways to commute if you live only a few miles from your workplace. In today's world of hectic schedules, finding time to exercise can be difficult to do. By bicycling or walking to work, you're getting your workout while you commute—burning calories instead of burning gasoline. Check out these fast-foot facts:

- Walking just three hours a week **cuts the risk of heart attack and stroke** in women ages 40 to 65 by 40% (Harvard Medical School).
- Women who walk 40-45 minutes five times a week are **sick with colds or the flu half as often** as sedentary women (Appalachian State University).
- You can **lose about 18 pounds a year—without dieting**—if you walk 45 minutes, four times a week (James Rippe, M.D. and the University of Massachusetts Medical School).
- Walking, a “weight-bearing exercise,” **builds stronger bones** by helping to maintain bone density.

And, both walking and bicycling help to reduce stress, so that you arrive at work ready and raring to go, and arrive at home relaxed and ready to enjoy your evening.

Tips for Bicycling and Walking

- Rule number one is to check with your physician to make sure that a commute by bicycle or on foot will be safe for your body.
- If you're going to start bicycling or walking to work, look at a map and plan your route in advance, then try it out on a non-work day to see if it's comfortable and safe.
- Always check out your exercise equipment first, make sure you have a good pair of walking shoes, and give your bike a good tune-up.
- Safety is the most important thing while commuting, whether on foot or on wheels. If you're a walker, stick to the sidewalks and cross with the lights. If you're a bicyclist, read up on the rules of the road at www.massbike.org/bikelaw/.

To find out more about bicycling and walking around northwest Indiana, read about the Northwest Indiana Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan at www.nirpc.org/Bike_Plan_Home.html or visit www.indianatrails.org. You can also email project director Mitch Barloga at nirpc@nirpc.org.

Improving Our Air Quality: A Matter of Health

According to the American Lung Association, each of us takes up to 20,000 breaths per day. This is an average of up to 3,400 gallons of air that we inhale on a daily basis.

In 2002, the World Health Organization reported that about three million people die each year from the effects of air pollution. Carbon monoxide from cars reduces the ability of blood to bring oxygen to body cells and tissues (National Transportation Library). Exposure to vehicle exhaust increases the risk of death from lung disease and lung cancer (American Cancer Association).

On top of that, asthma (another harmful effect of excessive air pollution) is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15 (American Lung Association). This is especially because, according to the EPA, children breath 50% more air per pound than adults.

Diesel exhaust from cars contains microscopic soot about 200 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. Toxic pollutants such as those that cars send out into the atmosphere account for almost five percent of the hospital admissions for heart disease (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences).

Car exhaust contains very small particles and 40 chemicals that are classified as “hazardous air pollutants” under the Clean Air Act. To stay up-to-date on the levels of air pollution in our region, AirNow issues an Air Quality Action Day alert when levels are high. Citizens throughout the region will see or hear about Air Quality Action Days on television, on the radio, or in the newspaper. You can also receive Air Quality Action Day alerts at local websites or through your email.



During Air Quality Action Days, remind those who are most vulnerable to the effects of air pollution to reduce the time they spend outdoors.

To be added to the Air Quality Action Day email notification list, email nirpc@nirpc.org with the request.

A Guide to Air Quality and Your Health: The Air Quality Index

The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality provided by AirNow, a government-funded website designed to provide the public with easy access to national air quality information.

The index tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. EPA calculates the AQI for five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For each of these pollutants, EPA has established national air quality standards to protect public health.

The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern.

Air Quality Index (AQI) Values	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:</i>	<i>...air quality conditions are:</i>	<i>...as symbolized by this color:</i>
0 to 50	Good	Green
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
301 to 500	Hazardous	Maroon

Ground-level ozone and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in this country.

Ground-level ozone is formed when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, and other sources react chemically with the presence of sunlight.

Particle pollution is made up of small airborne particles and have a wide range of sizes. Those that are less than 10 micrometers can get into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Fine particles, or those less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, are so small they can only be detected by an electron microscope. Sources of fine particles include motor vehicles. Coarse dust particles are between 2.5 and 10 micrometers and are caused by rushing and grinding operations or dust stirred up by traveling vehicles.

Visit www.airnow.gov for further information on air quality across the nation.

10 Tips to Reduce Air Pollution

The single largest source of ozone pollution in our region is the vehicles that travel our roadways. That means that we all can do something to reduce our pollution and keep our air clean.

1. **Care for your car.** Regular maintenance and tune-ups, changing the oil, and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns, and it could reduce your car's emissions by more than half.
2. **Trip Chain.** It's easy! It's when you combine errands into one trip. When you first start a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour, it pollutes up to five times more than when the engine is warm.
3. **Don't top off the tank.** Extra gas fumes released promote ground-level ozone production.
4. **Get fuel when it is cool.** Refueling during cooler periods of the day or in the evening can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ground-level ozone.
5. **Know before you go.** Get travel updates before you leave home to avoid getting stuck in a jam, which wastes your fuel and pollutes the air.
6. **Bike-it there.** It's a great way to travel and it can help you and the air get into a healthier condition.
7. **Take things in stride.** Walk or in-line skate instead of driving. These are easy ways to exercise and they are also beneficial for the air.
8. **Share a ride.** Even if you carpool or vanpool just once or twice a week, you'll decrease traffic congestion, reduce pollution, and save money. Visit www.sharethedrive.org for more information.
9. **Don't use gas-powered lawn equipment during an Air Quality Action Day.** Lawn-care machines can be heavy polluters - one hour of mowing can pollute as much as driving hundreds of miles.
10. **Take a deep breath and start talking.** Spread the word on what's up with air pollution in northwest Indiana, and let folks know that even if our individual efforts are little, "It All Adds Up to Cleaner Air."



Vehicle Emissions Testing Locations

Hours of Operation

The Clean Air Car Check stations are open:

Monday and Wednesday 8am - 7pm

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8am - 5pm

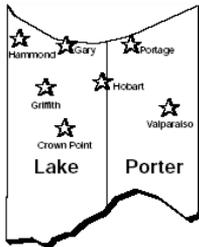
Saturday 8am - 1pm

For more information, call toll-free

1-888-240-1684

FREE Vehicle Emissions Testing

Locations and Directions:



Hammond

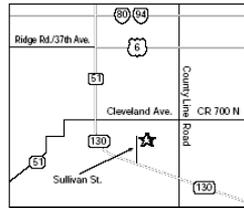
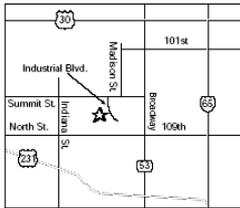
1231 Gostlin Street

Take Columbia Ave. north to Gostlin and turn right. The station is on left, near the northeast corner of Columbia Ave and Gostlin St.

Crown Point

755 N. Industrial Boulevard

From Broadway turn west onto Summit St. and turn left onto Industrial Blvd. The station is on the right. (Summit is between 101st and 109th.)



Hobart

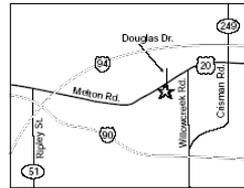
325 Sullivan Street

(In the Monarch Industrial Park) Sullivan St. is off Route 130, just west of County Line Rd.

Gary

3901 W. Fourth Avenue

The station is approximately 2 miles east of the Gary/Chicago Regional Airport, between Clark Rd. and Chase St.



Portage

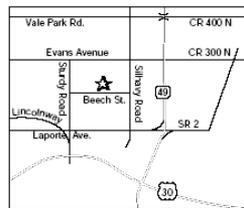
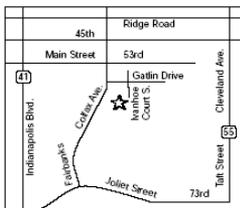
5777 Melton Road (US 20)

The station is just west of Willowcreek Rd. across from Douglas Dr.

Griffith

232 Ivanhoe Courth South

(In the Gatlin Industrial Park) From Ridge Rd. turn south on Colfax Ave. follow to Gatlin Dr. and turn left. (Gatlin is one street south of Main St.) Take Gatlin Dr. to Ivanhoe Ct. South and turn right. The station is on the right.



Valparaiso

2503 Beech Street

From the 49 bypass exit Route 2 heading west. Turn right at the light (Silhavy Rd.) and left onto Beech St. (Beech St. is just south of the Drand Trunk R/R tracks.)

An important tip! Vehicles can be tested as early as October the year before they are due to get their emissions checked. Avoid the rush and test early! December and January are low volume months. If you are going on a later month, be sure to call the toll free hotline above to check the wait time.

Every 3 months, every 3,000 miles or every 1.3 million breaths.

Changing your oil and regular maintenance mean a cleaner running engine.

It's true. Regular oil changes, tune-ups, and maintenance can help improve your vehicle's performance and gas mileage, extend its life, and increase its resale value. It can also help reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns. Most important of all, taking good care of your car could help reduce emissions by more than half. And that should make you breathe a lot easier between oil changes.

So keep it up, because—



*It all adds up to cleaner air
in Northwest Indiana*



For More Information Contact:

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