



# What is a Tune Up? Does My Car Need One?

## Quick Facts about Scheduled Maintenance

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| How often? | Perform maintenance as prescribed in our owner's manual. For higher mileage vehicles, ask your service writer to print out a schedule for you. Your service writer can also help you to get back on track if your car is currently "off schedule." |
| Benefits?  | A more reliable car, less money spent on diagnostics, and most importantly, the peace of mind that comes with having confidence in your vehicle.   |



The term "Tune Up" was coined back when Henry Ford was working on his original prototype for the automobile. Ignition systems on these early cars were very simple - one ignition coil for each spark plug. A four cylinder engine had four spark plugs and four ignition coils, which had to be adjusted to maximize idle quality and power. During operation the coils made a buzzing sound. The object was to adjust them or tune them so that all of them sounded the same - hence the name tune up.

Unfortunately, the name stuck around long after it had no meaning. Today's vehicles do not require tune ups. However, consumers still associate driveability problems or

performance problems with the need for a "Tune Up."

Manufacturers set forth in their maintenance schedules provisions for inspection and replacement of items such as spark plugs, fuel filters, air filters, timing belts, etc. Any testing or inspections for performance problems cannot be undertaken until it is known whether scheduled maintenance is being performed. It is a waste of money to be looking for a problem that may be solved by adhering to a maintenance schedule. If your vehicle experiences any operating or performance problems between maintenance intervals, the specific problem should be addressed by performing an engine analysis to isolate that particular problem.