

Is It Possible to Make Your Vehicle Last Forever?

Tips for Extending Its Life and Setting Reasonable Expectations

In an ideal world, our cars would last indefinitely. However, we don't live in a perfect world, and our vehicles eventually succumb to wear and tear and other inevitable effects of aging. But that doesn't mean we have no control over their longevity.

With proactive care and proper maintenance, you can extend your car or truck's lifespan, which is the key to reducing costs over the long term.

How to Get the Most Money's Worth Out of Your Car

Holding on to your vehicle for as long as possible (well beyond its warranty period) is often the best way to save money and get the most from your investment. According to Consumer Reports' experts, a financial win is when a new car lasts for 200,000 miles or more. Consider that the average time Americans own a car is 8 years, but if you drive as much as the average American, it's not unreasonable for you to expect a gas-powered car to last you about 14 years and an electric

car to reach about 21 years. So, how can you help your vehicle reach those milestones?

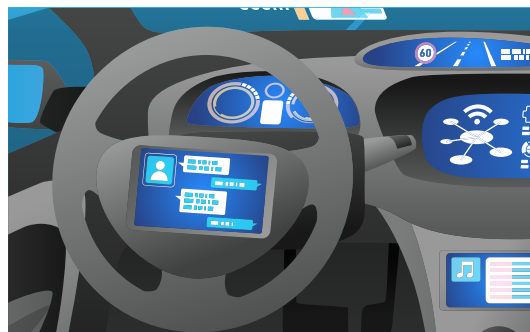
... a financial win is when a new car lasts for 200,000 miles or more.

- **Choose Wisely** – Purchase a make and model known for superior reliability and lower repair and maintenance costs than other brands. Also, consider the software component in today's vehicles. For how long has the manu-

facturer committed to supporting the software and offering security updates to guard against hackers and data breaches? A lack of software support can also affect other features, such as your navigation system, stereo, climate control, and more.

- **Treat Your Car Like You Want It to Last** – Set a schedule and budget for regular maintenance. Review your owner's manual for guidance

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How Much Will a Person Spend on Their Vehicles Over Their Lifetime?

It's no secret that buying and maintaining a car requires a lot of money. But you might be surprised to learn just how much the average vehicle owner will spend through the years.

The following stats highlight the significant investment we make in our vehicles, year to year and over the long haul.

- 1. The average person will spend between approximately \$500,000 and \$700,000** on their cars throughout their life.
- 2. Most people spend over \$12,000 per year** (approximately \$1,000 per month—on gas, insurance, maintenance, and monthly car payments) per vehicle.
- 3. Most Americans own roughly 10 cars in their lifetime.**
- 4. The cost of vehicle ownership has increased dramatically over the years.** In 1975, it cost an average of \$2,154 (in today's dollars). In 2025, it cost \$11,577 (which is actually down from \$12,296 in 2024).

Most Americans own roughly 10 cars in their lifetime.

Many Americans spend more on car ownership than their house! (And keep in mind that you eventually pay off the home you'll live in most of your life, but vehicles come and go.)

So, it makes sense that the longer your car lasts, the better off your bottom line will be. Investing \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year for maintaining a paid-off vehicle will keep more money in your bank account than spending over \$10,000 annually on a new one.



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on what care should occur at different intervals. For example, determine when your car will need oil changes, tire rotations, windshield wiper blade replacement, battery change, new tires, wheel alignment, brake pad and rotor replacement, strut replacement, new water pump, spark plug change, new alternator, new head gasket, transmission replacement, new muffler, etc. When you give your car the TLC it requires, it will reciprocate by serving you longer and more reliably.

- **Keep It Clean** – Dirt, debris, salt, and grime can do a number on your car's exterior and its underbody. Regularly wash your vehicle to help keep paint vibrant and prevent rust.



- **Don't Ignore Issues** – If you notice something's not quite right with your car, ask your mechanic to check things out sooner rather than later. Small problems can lead to bigger ones if ignored, so it's worth addressing them quickly to avoid safety risks and additional costs.

- **Find a Shop You Can Trust** – While you can't put a price on peace of mind, it pays to entrust your vehicle's care to mechanics you know will look out for your best interests. Expertise, extensive capabilities, honesty, and integrity all matter!



No car or truck can run forever, but you can greatly increase its lifespan with some common sense and care. And remember, at Roberts Automotive, we're always here to answer your questions and offer guidance to help you keep your vehicle operating safely and dependably for as long as possible.

Sources:
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Funny Spring Quotes

"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."
 – Mark Twain

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night."
 – Steve Martin

"The early bird gets the worm but the late bird doesn't even get the late worm."
 – Charles M. Schulz

"Spring is the time of the year, when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade."
 – Charles Dickens

"My favorite weather is bird chirping weather."
 – Terri Guillemets

"You gotta bloom where you're planted."
 – Dolly Parton

"Isn't it amazing how much stuff we get done the day before vacation?"
 – Zig Ziglar

"March 4th, the only day that's also a sentence."
 – John Green

Source:
<https://www.positivityblog.com/funny-spring-quotes/>

JACKIE'S KORNER KITCHEN

ASPARAGUS RISOTTO



Ingredients:

- A cup and half of Arborio Rice - this is an Italian, football-shaped rice. Its starchiness is what makes risotto creamy.
- A cup of white wine
- 2 cloves of garlic, very thinly sliced
- An onion, finely chopped
- Olive Oil
- Asparagus - the tips are the best part. When trimming it add the parts that are too woody to the stock to make it taste more like asparagus. Don't include them in the risotto though; pull them out before you start the rice.
- 5 cups vegetable stock
- A cup of shredded parmesan cheese

Recipe from Kurt Roberts- Asparagus Risotto is a spring classic. You could also use peas, and I'm known to use frozen peas, particularly in winter when I'm thinking about spring.

Directions:

1. Put a medium size pot on the stove and start warming the vegetable stock. Everything comes together much more easily if the stock is warm as it's being added.
2. In a large, flat saucepan soften the onion and garlic in a little bit of olive oil. It should just turn translucent, no need to brown it, but a little browning is okay.
3. When the onion looks ready, add the rice and stir for a minute to coat the grains with fat.
4. Deglaze the pan with the white wine.
5. After the wine is absorbed, ladle the first cup of stock into the pan with the rice. As each cup is absorbed, add another until all stock is incorporated. It will absorb more slowly with each addition. Stir the rice occasionally to help speed up the process.
6. Add the asparagus and cook for 2-4 minutes until desired tenderness. Stir in the parmesan and serve

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