



AUTOMOTIVE INFORMATION MONTHLY

Enjoy this automotive special feature brought to you by the News-Register Advertising Department and local businesses.



HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAR FOR YOUR FAMILY

If you're in the market for a new vehicle, make sure to carefully consider your family's needs and lifestyle. Here's a guide to help you find the right model.



THINK ABOUT SPACE

Make sure there are enough seats for the whole family and that everyone has a comfortable amount of legroom. You also want to make sure you can easily access the back seat if your children are young. Consider whether you need extra room to accommodate car seats, a stroller, sports equipment or a pet carrier. Look for a vehicle with fold-away seats or a spacious trunk to ensure you have enough storage space.

LOOK FOR COMFORT

Keep in mind that a spacious vehicle doesn't guarantee optimal comfort. Is the rear ventilation system independent from the one up front? Are the back seats heated? Does everyone have access to a cup holder? Reflect on which features will be most useful to your family and don't settle for a car without them.



PRIORITIZE SAFETY

In addition to air bags, modern cars offer a variety of safety features to protect your family. Since children are often a source of distraction, look for driver-assistance systems that are designed to help prevent collisions.

CONSIDER ENTERTAINMENT

A DVD player and onboard Wi-Fi can be invaluable, especially on a long trip. It might even help prevent siblings from bickering. As a driver, consider whether you could use voice-controlled Bluetooth or a few USB ports. Additionally, make sure the car is compatible with Apple CarPlay or Android Auto.



OPT FOR SIMPLICITY

Choose a vehicle with features that will make your life easier. When you're laden with groceries or have a kid in your arms, you'll likely appreciate a trunk that can be opened with your foot or the push of a button. Automatic sliding doors offer a similar convenience, and a smart key or keyless entry system will allow you to keep your hands free.



CAN YOU CHANGE A FLAT TIRE?

Did you know that, after the fear of having an accident, the second situation drivers fear the most is getting a flat tire? Would you know what to do in such a situation?

For many people, a flat tire is easily fixed by phoning the auto club or a local service station to have the tire changed by a technician. But what would these people do if they were caught in an isolated area with no phone signal?

So, do you know where your spare tire is? What about the car jack? Do you know how to operate it? The first thing you should do is consult your car owner's manual, where you will find the location of the jack and directions on how to use it. Have someone assist you in taking a practice run at changing a tire.

If your car is not equipped with run-flat tires (very few vehicles are), make sure that you have a can of aerosol tire sealant/inflator in your trunk, which should at least allow you to reach a service station.

Finally, check your spare tire frequently; the last thing you need when you have a flat tire is to find out that your spare tire is deflated! In any case, it's a good idea to keep a small portable air compressor in the trunk, in case such a situation should occur.



ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST

Summer is great for traveling. And most people like to travel by car or truck. Modern vehicles are now safer than ever before, but still, there are rules to abide by for safe traveling.

First and foremost, check your tire pressure. Newer cars have warning devices that will let the driver know when the pressure is low in one of the tires. Unfortunately, older cars do not. So, before leaving on a trip (and on a regular basis), always inspect your tire pressure, including the spare tire.

Be sure all the windows are clean enough so as not to produce glare, in direct sunlight as well as at night. Be sure your windshield wipers are clean and that you are using proper summer tires. Any vibration you may have recently noticed should be addressed before hitting the road.

If you are pulling a trailer, be sure its tires are in good shape. If the trailer was parked over the winter, have the wheel bearings checked for rust or have them re-packed. Check every light on the entire trailer (do the same thing with your car or truck) twice. A rusty and worn trailer ball can spell a lot of trouble.

Finally, before leaving on your trip, make sure you have the proper tools and emergency kits. You never know when they will come in handy.



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