

# The Basics of Car Care

## Hands-on Garage

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You've heard it many times. Cars these days are too complicated to work on. All those sensors and a computer, plus they're all crammed into a tight space.

Well, that's not necessarily true. Engines and drivelines these days aren't much different in principle than when they were invented decades ago, they're just covered in sensors and wire harnesses. All those sensors are pretty reliable, and what they're doing is making it *easier* to diagnose when something may be starting to go wrong. The first step in owner maintained car care is a simple computerized diagnosis to see if there are any fault codes you should be aware of. At Hands-on Garage, we have the diagnostic equipment to get you started.

From here, you can use our quality parts department to get your vehicle running along efficiently and safely again. It's still just your basic engine, driveline, brakes, and wheels, but if those sensors stop working properly, your mileage and performance may suffer.

In addition to the diagnostic check up, keep your eye on these basic elements:

- Tires
  - Keep them balanced, rotate at least once per year
  - Use proper inflation pressure, too high or too low causes premature wear
  - Replace when the tread is too shallow. Your vehicle control is only as good as where the rubber meets the road
- Hoses and Coolant
  - Replace hoses if they get too soft and keep coolant at the proper level
- Belts
  - Look for cracks on the inside of the belt, and ensure its at the proper tension
- Engine Oil
  - Change at proper interval, and keep the level right
- Battery
  - Keep it clean and check the connections are free of corrosion
- Other Fluids
  - Brake, power steering, washer fluid. Keep them at the proper level

In general, follow your manufacturers' service intervals and checks, we can help you with that.

If you're not sure, just ask a technician to have a look with you, and then **fix it yourself at Hands-on Garage!**