

# Cars Don't Like To Sit Idle

**Cars are meant to be driven.** One of the worst things for a car, especially an older car is for it to sit for long periods of time.

A car parked for extended periods risks the battery losing charge, tires gaining flat spots, rubber components such as belts and wipers drying out, and critters taking residence in your engine compartment.

**Drive your car at least once a week for 20 minutes** or longer to ensure that the battery is charged. This will also provide a chance to wear the rust off the brake discs and keep the calipers from seizing by using them. If you hear a scraping noise coming from your brakes, this may be due to it not being driven and the rust build up on the calipers.

Driving is a good solo activity, and frankly, many people probably need to shake off some cabin fever.

Consumer Reports' chief mechanic. "Clearly, if you have a true mechanical problem and/or your check-engine light is on, you should make an appointment with a local shop," he says. "When you call, ask about their coronavirus procedures."

## Check and Change the Oil, NOT Just Based on Mileage

Oil can be weakened or broken down even if you're not driving a lot. Big changes in temperatures can have an effect on oil. For example, you can easily have a swing of 50 degrees or more from one season to the next.



## Check the Tires

**Check the inflation when the tires are cold** (before driving), when tires sit a lot, especially during temperature swings there may be a loss of tire pressure. Low tire pressure should be corrected immediately. Driving tires that are low on air will use more gas and cause them to wear out prematurely, **tires low on tire pressure will also affect vehicle performance and handling.**



## Check and Replace the Cabin Filter

The cabin filter is what **filters the air you breath from outside pollutants** that comes into your vehicle from the outside air.