



STRAIGHT TORQUE

With Melinda Leyshon of Production Automotive

Why is servicing your car so important?

As drivers, we each carry certain responsibilities. We ensure we adhere to the road rules, provide courtesy to fellow motorists and, importantly, put safety first – and this includes ensuring that your vehicle is in roadworthy condition.

It is essential that we all know how to check air pressure and keep an eye on our engine oil levels, but cars are complex pieces of machinery that need to be regularly maintained by an experienced professional. Without correct maintenance, your car is a potentially dangerous machine. In addition, regular servicing can save you a lot of money long-term.

Here are a few more reasons why regular servicing of your vehicle is absolutely essential.

New car warranty protection

All new cars come with a warranty. However, these warranties are only valid if the service requirements of the vehicle are met. Service requirements of individual vehicles vary, but are usually every 10,000km or 15,000km depending on the manufacturer's specifications (outlined in your vehicle log book). New

car warranties require regular and specific servicing, and not adhering to these conditions (such as having your service carried out by qualified staff, according to the manufacturers' specifications, and using genuine or appropriate quality parts where required) may void your warranty. Over time, this could be a very expensive mistake!

Save at the petrol station

Cars are complex pieces of machinery, and small changes can often result in a large impact on a vehicle's performance. These changes are inevitable over time due to natural wear and tear, but regular servicing can ensure that these changes are addressed before they become significant. Natural wear and tear can lead to a gradual but significant loss of efficiency, resulting in your car using more and more fuel to travel the same distance - regular servicing will mean fewer visits to the petrol station and leave more money in your bank account – for a new pair of shoes or a carton of beer!

Prolong the life of your tyres

Minor and major services should always include a tyre rotation and balance. This involves moving the rear tyres to the front of the vehicle, and the front tyres to the rear. The front tyres should be balanced to

prevent vibration at high speeds. This will ensure you always have the best tyres on the front for safety as well as increase the longevity of your tyres by evening out their wear. Tyres aren't a cheap investment, so you really want to maximise their lifespan with regular rotation!

Ensuring safety for you and your family – and others. Every day we buckle up automatically, without remembering that we are behind the wheel of a potentially lethal machine – our responsibilities extend beyond driving to maintaining the condition of your car. Poorly maintained vehicles significantly increase the risk of serious accidents – minor checks should be seen as a supplement to a professional service and not a substitute, and regular servicing by a qualified mechanic will provide you with peace of mind.

Prevent breakdowns

It is amazing how many breakdowns could have been avoided with simple and regular car maintenance – regular servicing can not only ensure fluid levels are OK but also pick up any irregularities and ensure there are no safety requirements that could develop into a problem, such as worn brakes, shock absorbers or tyres, oil and coolant leaks or worn wheel bearings.



Preserving the resale value of your vehicle

How many times do we hear about how much our vehicles drop in value the minute we drive them off the manufacturer's lot? This doesn't have to be the case! A complete, regular service history will make your vehicle much more attractive to prospective buyers, and you not only find it easier to sell but will most certainly receive a higher price if you have looked after it properly.

From experience I can confirm that regular inspection and maintenance keeps your vehicle running smoothly, increases its reliability, maintains its value and most certainly extends the life of your vehicle - happy driving!