

# Spring CAR CARE

## Taking proper care of your air conditioner

If your car's air conditioning system has ever given up the ghost during a heat wave, you know that driving in a hot car is not much fun. That is why it's important to keep your AC system well maintained. But how do you know if it is working properly? If your AC can maintain your vehicle's inside temperature at least 10° lower than the outside temperature, then things are okay.

When an air conditioning system is unable to do its job, the problem is usually caused by low fluid levels within the system. If a leak is not the main cause of the fluid loss, then a specialist will have to be consulted. Air conditioning systems are increasingly complex these days, meaning that maintenance work should always be carried out by recognized professionals.

A malfunction in the system could also be caused by a problem with the compressor, which is the key element in the cooling system. If the compressor isn't functioning properly, it will likely have to be replaced. This can be a costly job, so before you instruct your mechanic to replace it, have it checked out first — some models have sensors that control the temperature and the pressure inside the system. These sensors might just be cutting power to the compressor to avoid overheating.

Lastly, if your car's cabin air filter is dirty or blocked, it may feel like the AC system isn't working at optimal output. Keep an eye on it and have it changed regularly. And don't forget that it is recommended to have your whole AC system checked once a year.



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