

Autumn

Automotive Solutions - Covering You Nationwide

The Automotive Solutions Group network is nationwide with 61 members and still growing. This means that if you find yourself stuck or broken down in another part of New Zealand, there are other trusted group members that can help you get back on the road.

Call **0800 791 791** or visit our website automotivesolutions.co.nz to find a trusted Automotive Solutions repairer near you.



WOF

REPAIRS

SERVICES

MAINTENANCE

ALL MAKES AND MODELS

www.automotivesolutions.co.nz

Vehicle Servicing

It doesn't matter what you drive, every vehicle needs servicing.



Whether your car is simply a means to get you from A to B or the love of your life offering you freedom and flexibility, having it regularly serviced is an important aspect of vehicle maintenance. It's also something that many drivers often neglect, questioning the need. With no issues in my car, vigilant oil and water checks, and timely WOF inspections, why spend more money?

Easy, Preventative Maintenance!

Servicing allows potential mechanical problems to be identified earlier and usually the earlier they're caught, the cheaper they are to fix. Neglecting regular servicing of your vehicle might save you a buck now however, might cost you down the line.

Reduced Fuel Economy: Worn spark plugs and dirty filters make your engine work harder which increases fuel consumption.

Increased Risk of Mechanical Failures: Unidentified mechanical issues can result in costly repairs for problems like an overheating engine or transmission issues.

Accelerated Wear and Tear: Neglecting maintenance on various car components may lead to expensive repairs e.g. old engine oil can cause increased friction and damage to engine parts.

So how often should I service?

At least annually or 10,000kms but for older or high mileage drivers biannually or every 5,000kms is recommended. It does depend on the condition of the car, its service history and your driving habits but if you are really wanting to maintain its condition and reliability stick to a more frequent maintenance schedule.

What do I get for my \$? Car service levels can vary depending on your mechanic. Typically it should include an oil and oil filter change along with a number of core mechanical, electrical and hydraulic systems tested for functionality.

A COMPREHENSIVE CAR SERVICE CAN INCLUDE ANY OF THE SERVICE ITEMS BELOW*

- Replace engine oil and filter.
- Check and top up all relevant fluids and filters.
- Check engine and transmission including mounts, hoses and belts.
- Check cooling system including radiator, radiator cap, and hoses.
- Test 12V battery condition and alternator charging rate, check connections and security.
- Check all tyre pressures and wear.
- Check exhaust system including mountings.
- Check suspension and steering components.
- Check air filter.
- Determine the remaining life of the cambelt. Check condition and tension of auxiliary drive belts.
- Check spark plug condition.

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Vehicle Servicing continued...

- Check chassis and under-body for damage or weakness.
- Check condition of CV boots and driveshafts.
- Check and lubricate bonnet, door hinges, and catches.
- Check brake pads, calipers, discs, linings, wheel cylinders/drums, lines, hoses and connections for wear or damage.
- Check wheel bearings for excessive play or noise.
- Check, test and adjust all lights, indicators, wiper/washers and horn.
- Check windscreen for damage and check wiper blade condition.
- Check seatbelt condition and operation.
- Road test vehicle and report any other defects at the end of service.

*Comprehensive service items may vary between vehicle types and workshops.

And if that's not enough...

Getting your car serviced regularly also helps maintain its value and increases its chances of passing its WOF by addressing any potential issues prior to the inspection. Take care of your car with regular servicing and help extend its lifespan, maintain its value, and enjoy a more reliable driving experience.



EV/PHEV Road User Charges

From 1 April 2024 light electric vehicles (EVs) will lose their road user charges (RUC) exemption in an effort by the government to promote fairness and equity to all road users and their financial contribution to the maintenance of our roads.

The exemption, an incentive to encourage the use of more environmentally friendly electric vehicles by way of reducing operating costs, has been in place since 2009. The intention has been that it be removed once the number of EVs in NZ hit two percent of the market, a figure we are now meeting.

Beginning 1 April 2024:

- EV owners will pre-pay \$76 per 1000km and plug-in hybrid owners (PHEVs) \$53 per 1000km plus admin costs. This applies to all EVs weighing less than 3500kg (RUCs for EVs over 3500kg will be implemented from 31/12/25).
- RUCs can be pre-purchased online or from VTNZ or AA in blocks of 1000km.
- At your initial RUC purchase an odometer reading must be given following which further readings will be taken at each warrant of fitness.

If the odometer exceeds the RUCs you will then be invoiced for the difference. Late payment can incur a 10 percent penalty on the amount owed and any provision of false RUC records can result in a fine of up to \$15,000.

- As the system is phased in there will be a two-month grace period.
- E-scooters, e-bikes, electric motorbikes and hybrids such as the Toyota Prius that don't need to be charged at the wall are exempt.

Roast Pumpkin Soup



From www.jamieoliver.com/features/glorious-roasted-pumpkin-soup/

Autumn brings with it bumper crops of pumpkins and while on this side of the globe that doesn't work well for Halloween it does wonders for pumpkin soup!!! Here's a simple but mouth-watering recipe from jamieoliver.com to enjoy.

Ingredients:

- 1.5kg pumpkin
- Olive oil
- 1 teaspoon dried chilli
- 1 tablespoon coriander seeds
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 carrot
- 1 stick of celery
- 1 litre hot vegetable stock

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C/340°F.
2. Halve the pumpkin and remove the seeds (you can keep these for roasting and sprinkling over the finished soup - here's how at www.jamieoliver.com/features/how-to-roast-pumpkin-seeds/), then chop into wedges.
3. Place the pumpkin on two large baking trays and drizzle over a little olive oil.
4. In a pestle and mortar, grind the chilli and coriander seeds with a pinch of salt until finely ground.
5. Sprinkle the spices over the pumpkin with some black pepper.
6. Roast the pumpkin for 1 hour, or until soft and slightly caramelised at the edges.
7. Meanwhile, roughly chop the onion, garlic, carrot and celery.
8. Heat a lug of olive oil over a medium heat in a large saucepan then add the vegetables and cook for 15 minutes, or until soft and sweet but not coloured.
9. When the pumpkin is ready, add to the pan with the hot stock. Blend with a stick blender, adding a little more water if you like a thinner consistency.
10. Ladle into bowls and add your favourite toppings.

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PETERMARK
AUTOMOTIVE LIMITED

5b Ashfield Road
Glenfield, Auckland 0627
Phone: 09 444 3967
Web: petermark.co.nz



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