

Tips for keeping your car in working order when seldomly driving:

Many of us are not driving our cars or only driving short distances during the **stay at home** order. If you can, we recommend driving every two to three weeks to make it less likely that you wind up with a dead battery, flat-spotted tires or other issues that can be caused by letting a car sit parked for weeks. Drive your cars (grandparents' cars too) a couple of times each month and for at least 10 miles, with some freeway driving if possible (speeds over 50 mph). You not only want your engine to get fully warmed up but for the entire car warmed up as well. Driving the car for several miles wakes up the transmission, brakes, suspension, power steering, climate system (including the air conditioner) and all the fluids, seals and gaskets for those components that have been used.

Here are a few reasons not to let your car sit for several weeks or longer:

- Tires slowly lose air under all conditions but especially during cold weather. As they do, the weight of the car keeps pressing down on the tires, which causes flat spots to develop on the segments sitting on the ground. Driving the car and adding air if necessary, will usually make the tires round again, but letting the vehicle sit for extended periods on underinflated tires can cause permanent flat spots that you will be able to feel and hear when you drive.
- Rodents might take up residence under the hood or even in exhaust outlets. If they get hungry, some may munch on the wiring harnesses and other parts made of soy and other organic materials that are used on modern vehicles.
- Moisture can collect in the gas tank (especially if it isn't full) and in the oil over time, and that can lead to corrosion.

Please stay healthy and safe,
~The Hartog Family