



Maintaining idle vehicles

Follow these tips to protect your vehicle

We're all doing our best to pull together (while still social distancing!) during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the best ways we can help is by limiting our trips out of the home to only the essentials, such as grocery stores and pharmacies.

By staying home, you'll be using your vehicle a lot less. We've put together some tips to help you maintain your vehicle while it sits idle, to ensure that your vehicle will operate properly once our daily routines return to normal.

Keep it clean and full

- Ensure that all fluids are topped off—especially motor oil and gas. Keeping a gas tank full prevents moisture build while the vehicle remains idle.
- After changing the oil, drive the vehicle for a few kilometres to ensure that the oil circulates throughout the engine.
- Wash the outside of the vehicle thoroughly to get rid of any salt, dirt or snow/ice buildup to prevent rust.
- Clean the inside of the vehicle. Dispose of any organic material that might attract pests.

Keep it running

- Start the car and leave it running until it achieves a normal operating temperature at least once a week. **Warning:** it is incredibly important that you do not run a vehicle in an enclosed space, such as a garage.
- Keep your battery charged. If you're certain that you won't be using a vehicle at all for an extended period, remove the battery altogether and store it in a cool, dry place.

Keep it parked

- Park indoors if possible. Doing so will prevent moisture and dirt from affecting the paint. Storing a vehicle indoors is also one of the best ways to prevent it from being broken into or stolen.
- Do *not* engage the parking brake, as doing so can wear down the brake pads.
- Put the vehicle on jacks, concrete blocks or pieces of wood to prevent tires from flattening.
- Check the tire pressure and keep them inflated. If the vehicle will remain idle for an extended period of time, consider adding a little extra pressure to the tires.

Expert advice

- Talk to your mechanic to see if your vehicle has any other specific concerns that need to be addressed during a dormant period.
- Contact your broker to talk about your insurance coverage needs at this time—if you don't intend on using the vehicle for an extended period of time, you may wish to reduce your coverage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your broker.