

DriveWise

What's next?

Six driving habits that can harm your vehicle

This month on DriveWise, we identify some driving habits which can lead to mechanical issues in the long run.

- By Rahul Kapoor

On DriveWise, we have emphasised how important oil and fluid changes, tyre rotations, replacing rubber pipes, belts and wiper blades at regular intervals are. However, there are some instances where your daily driving habits can lead to a significant impact on the longevity of your car and its components. Sometimes, even experienced drivers make these mistakes that may cause unnecessary wear and tear on their vehicle. Here are some of these habits.

Resting on the Knob



Some drivers tend to drive with one hand resting on the gear lever. This places weight on the transmission's bushings and synchronisers that leads to internal wear. Always keep both of your hands on the steering wheel and only take one hand off when you need to shift gears and place back on the steering wheel when you're done.

Apply Parking Brake

When parked, it is a good practice to



engage your handbrake. Some people leave their manual cars in gear, or in 'P' with automatic gearboxes. This puts weight on the cog or small piece of metal in the automatic gearbox which will eventually wear out and lead to complete failure over time. Using your handbrake along with it will reduce that stress on the components which are expensive to repair. A worn brake pad is easier to replace and costs much less.

Junk in the Trunk

The heavier your car - the more load your engine will have to haul. Additional stress on the engine



will affect your fuel economy by making it less efficient. Clear out any unnecessary cargo from your car and keep only the essentials. Give your interior and your boot a thorough cleaning as the stress from extra weight also causes wear on your brakes, suspension and your transmission.

Little by Little



Modern cars use fuel pumps which are cooled by being submerged in fuel. But sometimes your budget may not be able to accommodate a full tank every time, leaving some drivers to fill small quantities at a time. It is always a good practice to keep at least a quarter of a tank of fuel at all times as lack of fuel in the reservoir can cause the pump to fail from overheating, leading to expensive repairs further down the road.

Clutch Rider

Some drivers tend to drive with their left foot on the clutch pedal or even keep their clutch engaged with the car



in gear in traffic light. Riding the clutch causes its surfaces to graze against each other and leads to premature wear on your clutch by damaging the pressure plate, eventually resulting in

sudden clutch failure. Only engage the clutch when you have to change gear.

Hard Starts & Stops

While hard acceleration can provide a momentary adrenaline boost, it uses significantly more fuel than accelerating gradually. Additionally, while sudden stops may be necessary for certain situations, it does cause your brake pads and rotors to fade much faster. Also repeated hard braking can cause them to overheat and lose

bite eventually, till they cool down. Plan your acceleration and braking by looking ahead and assessing the traffic to apply smoother acceleration and braking inputs. ■



Say hello to the Genesis Essentia Concept

Hyundai's luxury-arm, Genesis, has revealed its futuristic all-electric grand tourer at the New York Motor Show and it looks beautiful. Finished entirely in carbon-fibre, the body of the Genesis is full of gorgeous design lines. The styling of the Essentia makes it look amazing, which is kind of understood since it's designed by former Audi/Lamborghini designer, Luc Donckerwolke. The side profile is the most striking angle – the long bonnet, angular arches and those stunning copper-colour wheels are very tastefully done, we think. Plus, it gets more brownie points for its butterfly doors. The Essentia is propelled by electric power, but the company hasn't

revealed any specific numbers. The manufacturer has claimed that there'll be "high-density battery pack and multiple electric motors" and that it'll do 0-100km/h time in around 3 seconds. Inside, the concept has four seats that come with Cognac leather with chevron quilting. The dashboard, on the other hand, is a seamless information cluster. The driver gets an 8-inch wide-screen display in front. There's a lot of futuristic tech inside, including an advanced vehicle-to-infrastructure and vehicle-to-vehicle connectivity system. At the moment, the Genesis Essentia is just a concept and we are yet to get a confirmation on when it would be entering production. ■

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