



"Carefully doing it right"

(Specialists in Honda, Toyota, Acura and Lexus)

Newsletter

"Best of Lincoln Award" 2018

April 2019

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How to Save Money

This is Bill's Acura. It's got 260,000 miles on it, but you'd never know it. It looks and drives like a new one. He brings it in for regular service and has never had a serious issue with it. His total cost of maintenance and repairs is 9 cents a mile.

His car before this was a black Integra, which had over 330,000 miles on it when he sold it. Bill's been part of the Witt Family over 20 years. Congratulations, Bill. You made the Newsletter. 😊

How to Deal With Potholes

The best thing is to avoid them. Well, duh. They're born from water in the freeze/thaw cycle. The roads are crowned and most of the water collects close to the curb. The best way to stay clear of them is to keep your right side wheels as far from the curb as is practical.

Avoid standing water, as many of them lurk just below the surface of the water. Keeping the air

pressure up in your tires reduces the risk of tire damage.

Should you see one coming, it's natural to hit the brakes to slow down. At the last moment, let off the brakes, or better yet, give the car a little gas. What? Yes, this will allow the wheel to roll over the far edge of the hole. Staying hard on the brakes can push the wheel back, risking suspension damage.

The suspension is mounted in rubber and is reasonably tough. Here are signs of trouble:

- ◆ The steering wheel is crooked
- ◆ The vehicle no longer drives straight
- ◆ There is a wobble in the steering wheel, particularly at low speeds
- ◆ A tire has a bulge in the sidewall or starts losing air.
- ◆ The wheel has a bent edge
- ◆ A dash warning light comes on

Call us if you see any of these. We can fix it and put your vehicle back on the straight and narrow.



Photographic credit to our staff photographer Luke Addis.

Car Quiz

1. T or F—If you get more than one dash warning light at a time, you'll need a repair for each.
2. T or F—Dash warning lights are different colors to help a driver decide what to do about it.
3. T or F—It's always a good idea to add a bottle of oil supplement when doing an oil change.
4. T or F—Gasoline blends will soon switch from Winter grade gasoline to Summer grade.

Answers to Quiz

1. False. Many times the lights are linked together. For example, if the speed sensor on the left front wheel stops working, the computer doesn't get a signal for vehicle speed and sets a check engine light. The stability control needs that signal, so it sets a VSC light. Not to be outdone, The antilock brake system, who also needs that sensor, sets an ABS light.

There is only one fault, but 3 different systems need that sensor, so 3 lights are set. We call this the "Christmas tree" effect, due to all the lights. So, you don't have to be freaking out over so many lights.



2. True. Really? Yes, an amber light means proceed with caution, just like a traffic light. Red means big deal, stop, alto, cease, Whoa Nellie! and shut 'er down Newt. The oil light looks like the can of a little magic genie. A picture of a battery means a charging system issue, which will result in a dead battery and a dead car if you don't do something soon. Airbag lights are red, reinforcing the idea that red is serious.

3. False. The motor oil we are currently using contains everything your engine could ever want. It has proven to keep the seals soft and pliable, which means they don't leak. It keeps the piston rings happy, which means oil consumption is better controlled.

The real deal is that oil additives CAN contain things that are harmful to the catalytic convertor (read \$\$\$) that are NOT legal for oil companies to put into motor oil. There is virtually no real regulation on additives and all sorts of things can be bad.

We very carefully investigate everything we can to be certain that we do things that prevent repairs and breakdowns. We are unique in the industry.

4. True. I know this sounds like the Summer air in your tires thing, but really it's true.

Liquid gasoline won't burn. No, I'm not kidding. Gasoline in a vapor form is highly flammable. Winter gas needs to be able to vaporize when it's well below zero. This is a problem in summer heat.

Trips to the mountains in the old days found many cars by the side of the road with hoods up. "Vapor lock!" was the problem. The fuel vaporized too quickly and the old carburetors didn't work then.



Modern fuel injection and better fuel formulations have made this a relic of the past. Right around the middle of April, the refineries really do switch to a gasoline product with a much higher temperature vaporization point.

Gas prices go up during the spring because it costs more to refine summer fuel. If you have a car that doesn't get used much, drive it now to lower the fuel in the tank, then you can buy gas in May. Also, take your left over snow blower gas, put it in your car before you fill the car. A gallon won't matter. Then you can buy lawn mower gas in May.

Once a Year

Or 8,000 miles is often enough for us to help you reduce car expenses and prevent breakdowns. Our basic maintenance visits represent less than 5 cents a mile over 150,000 miles.

We've carefully studied the performance of extended service fluids. Using our information to target less maintenance has resulted in lower costs and fewer breakdowns and repairs.

We provide a greater level of service, improved convenience with loaner cars and, best of all, dramatically reduced overall ownership costs. It's a win

Don't buy an extended warranty!

Car dealers make more profit selling additional warranties than when they sell a car. Really true.

A 5-year, 100,000 mile plan is really just a 2-year, 64,000 mile plan. The factory warranty is 3 years, 36,000 and included with the car.

Most serious issues will show up during the first 3 years, anyway. Open a savings account, make the payments into that account to cover any huge repairs. After 5 years, you've got the money.

Really, don't buy an extended warranty!

Many people get deluged with offers after the sale to buy one. Many of them are just scams that won't pay if you do have a breakdown anyway. Keep your dough. Use it for something fun.

How to Tell if You Really Need Repairs

One of the most serious problems with the auto industry is that most technicians are paid straight commission, called "flat-rate". Having a car inspected might mean providing a buffet of money making items from which they can choose. Oil leaks can be a favorite, since nearly every vehicle will have a little trace somewhere. Tightening a few bolts and charging to replace a gasket can happen.

Our people make a great hourly wage, regardless what they do. This allows them to perform each job with pride and precision.

If you, or a friend, is told their car has an oil leak, don't buy anything until you go home and check your garage floor or driveway. If it looks like this photo, you probably do and should get it fixed.



Seat Belt Slow on the Draw?

If you're tired of your seat belt getting slammed in the door because it's so slow to retract, here's the fix.

The loop above your shoulder that is attached to the side pillar is probably coated with icky goo. (that's a technical term for nasty stuff). Take a cotton swab, dip it in alcohol and wipe the loop clean. A clean loop is a happy loop and the belt will now slide quick like bunny.

One more tip is to use your right hand and place the clip over your left shoulder. The retractor doesn't have enough strength to pull it belt up quickly by itself. If it did, it would tend to slap the window glass.

Two Foot Driving

"One foot on the brake and one on the gas" sings Sammy Hagar in "I Can't Drive 55".

If this is how you drive, you need to know that engineers have programmed the vehicle computer on some models to cut power to the accelerator if the brake pedal is depressed at all.

This is to help solve the issue of uncontrolled acceleration (runaway throttle). So, if there are times when your car stalls, check your feet.

How Automotive Detectives Fix Cars

We have to know everything about all systems on a car and who all the suspects are when something doesn't work. By eliminating suspects based on alibis or evidence, we can arrive at the culprit. Then we fix that culprit and life is good.

When a "check engine" light comes on, a wealth of data is stored. This is worth a fortune to auto detectives. If you clear the codes before you come in, you've just emptied the files, removed the body and scrubbed all the evidence from the

crime scene. This can greatly increase the cost of the investigation and sometimes prevent a fix.



*Excellent service EVERY time!
How refreshing it is to have
mechanics you can trust. L.H.*

So, be like Tom Bodett and "leave the light on for us". Thanks.

20 Wittbucks for the asking!

All you have to do is ask if we have your current email address for service reminders or periodic car tips that will be mostly informational. No Spam.

Special offer ends 12/31/2019. May be combined with any other offer. One redemption per customer per year, please. Portions of this coupon may have been produced in Russia with collusion from undisclosed sources. Not redeemable for rubles are you crazy? Good on labor only, not on parts.

Comprehensive Inspection \$65 Keep it, trade it or fix it & love it?

Decisions are made based on available information. The more accurate the information, the better the decision. Many cars can be made like new for less than the cost of taxes and plates on a new one.

Our inspection process is designed to give you what you need to decide what's best for you.. Get the whole picture and use financing if you wish. Offer ends 6/30/19

Certain 50 foot cars may be inspected for less. Yes, if we can see from 50 feet away that this is not a nice car, we sometimes stop at 20 bucks.

25 Wittbucks!

It's right on the front of our website. Go to www.georgewitt.com and print it. Or just mention it. There are some conditions, we won't just fork over cash.

Expires 5/30/19. It's \$25 off regular priced labor in excess of \$150. We don't even care if you bring the coupon. Just ask for it and it's a done deal. Whoever said you don't get everything in life that you ask for has never tried to ask to get this deal. Clean out the Hershey's syrup bottle when done. Then use it for a water bottle at the gym. You'll get some great looks. For extra credit, in which battle did Napoleon die? (His last one).

3% Cash Discount Coupon

Simply present this coupon for a 3% discount when you pay by cash (U.S. currency) or paper check. Offer ends 06/30/19. This is a coupon promotion and is not automatic when you pay. In addition, you must be able to spell "stressed" backwards. It's desserts. Bring a fork. Ends 7/31/19

Free Loaner Cars?

We used to provide free rides to work. This meant having an extra person on the payroll to do that, which was an enormous expense. There was also the issue of customers far apart needing rides at the same time.

We now have some very nice cars to loan when you drop off your car for scheduled service. Let us know when you make your appointment and you can drive a Witt car for the day *if one is available*. We only ask that you put gas in them. Small price, great convenience.



7am-5pm Mon-Thurs & Fri 7am- noon

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Just One More Way We Save \$\$

It's been a tradition for a long time. When brake pads or shoes are replaced, rotors and drums get machined and refinished. We haven't done this for years, because it's not in our customer's interest.

"This is a waste of perfectly good brake disc material and, more importantly, your customer's money" —Honda Service News.

This increases the cost at the time of replacement and shortens the life of the brake rotor.

There is a reason behind everything we do. We produce quality repairs that last longer.

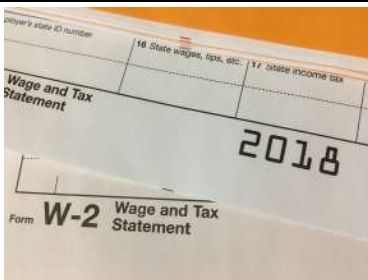
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Newsletter for Owners of Select Asian Cars

George Witt Service, Carefully doing it right
"Your Hometown Honda and Toyota Specialists"
3341 N. 35th St. (2 blocks north of Cornhusker)
Lincoln NE 68504-1559

Prsrt Std
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1359
Lincoln NE

2016 Zero Waste
Business Award
Nebr. Recycling Council



Use Your Tax Refund

We can check your car carefully, fix up things that need it and you've got a car that will last another few years with **No Car Payments!** Use interest free credit to do it now.

Quick convenience tip:

When you call to schedule service work with an oil change, have the miles on your car (odometer reading) handy. It helps us advise you on what the car needs, or if it even needs anything at all.

Free Financing

A photo ID, a few answers and a few minutes is all you need to apply. We can do it on the spot. You can get a credit card good at our shop any time.



Text 402.430.2668

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Email

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(Wet birch works best for smoke signals)

E-Mail: service@georgewitt.com

