

Lawn Mower Repairs Are Inevitable 10 Ways to Drive Green

BY JEFF CASMER

Regardless of the type of lawn mower a person owns it will have to go through one or more lawn mower repairs at some point of its life, even top manufactures and models that worked perfectly in the beginning will require a tune up of at least one part.

One can prevent serious lawn mower repairs if maintenance is done on the machine regularly. In most cases lawn mowers repairs are due to a lack of attention to the machine.

But by doing maintenance checks every winter before storage and every spring before use as well as cleaning the underneath of the mower by scraping it and using and air compressor to clean the engine, air filter and carburetor you can avoid a number of repairs.

Prevention is often better the cure. Because lawn mower repairs can be costly, maintaining your machine is far more cost effective then neglecting it and then running out to purchase new parts.

That said, nearly all mow-

ers will need a repair at some point. This may be a small repair such as replacing the blade or larger like repairing the small engine that powers the lawn mower. This may include replacing a clogged fuel filter, which is a common reason for why the lawn mower wont start, stalls or dies during use.

Lawn mower repairs are often tricky for the average user because in most cases the actual problem does not show up in the part that needs to be repaired but rather somewhere else in the machines.

For instance if your spark plug needs to be replaced it could be because there are snags in the carburetor. In this case, replacing the spark plug may help but you will also have to get the carburetor looked at. So lawn owners are often playing doctor to their lawn mowers as they try to diagnose the disease behind the symptoms.

Looking at every symptom or problem and trying to decipher what could be the cause is the best way to get to the root of the problem. Consider the problem. Is the problem that the lawn mower vibrates during use?

Is it that it wont start?

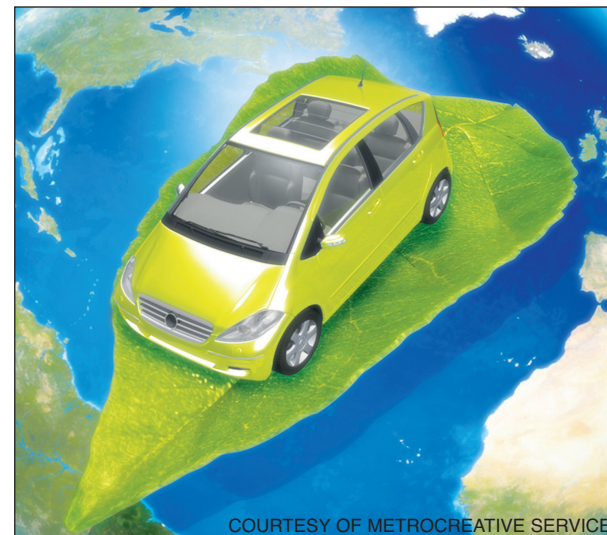
Often, a lawn mower that will not start may be out of fuel or the ration of the fuel mix may be incorrect. By ruling out each cause related to starting the mower you can find the solution.

However, the lawn mower owner may not be able to get to the bottom of the issue or they may find, during the process, that the mower needs a serious repair. In each case it is best to call in a professional.

Professional lawn mower repairmen, not only fix major repairs but they also help lawn mower owners figure what is wrong with their lawn mower. The owner can then get some quotes on the repair cost and determine if fixing it is the best option or if the lawn mower has seen better days and a new mower is in order.

Lawn mowers are essential for keeping a healthy lawn. And repairing your lawn mower can help prolong its life.

About the Author: Jeff Casmer is a lawn mower expert and the owner of Lawn Mower Repair, a website dedicated to lawn mowers and lawn keepers.



COURTESY OF METROCREATIVE SERVICES

(MS) — The millions of the vehicles on the road have a tremendous impact on the environment. Vehicle exhaust, fuel, and the fluids that are used in and drained from cars and trucks all impact the environment in their unique ways.

There are ways to make "greener" choices regarding vehicle choice, maintenance, and driving habits, however. Here are some eco-friendly tips to consider.

1. Shop hybrid or clean diesel: If you are in the market for a new vehicle, choose a hybrid model, which will be less reliant on fuel, making it a smarter choice. Clean diesel vehicles burn fuel more efficiently and produce less waste at the tailpipe. So if hybrids aren't your choice, a diesel may be another option.

2. Look for green materials: Many automakers are equipping vehicles with recycled components. There are also options to skip the leather interior in favor of plant-based materials that may offer a lower impact on the planet.

3. Clean-up at the car wash: Today's commercial car wash outfits generally use recycled and filtered water to clean the bevy of cars that come through. When washing a car at home by hand, you may use more water than is required and flush detergents and soiled water into storm sewers, which filter out into waterways. Pulling up to the

car wash is a greener choice.

4. Recycle motor oil: Oil and lube establishments have contracts with disposal services to cart away used motor oil and other car fluids so they can be properly recycled or disposed of. If you're doing an oil change at home, bottle up the used oil and take it to a facility that can recycle the oil. Also, automotive experts now say that vehicles can go longer between oil changes than the once recommended 3,000 miles. This will save on the amount of oil you need to purchase and the amount that needs to be recycled.

5. Smaller may be better: The mantra "bigger is better" doesn't always apply. In terms of environmental impact, a smaller vehicle could be the better option. Smaller cars — ones with lighter curb weight and fewer cylinders, for example — will burn less fuel. Think about whether you need a seven-passenger vehicle with third-row seat or four-wheel drive. These options can add weight to a vehicle and increase fuel consumption. There are some manufacturers that recognize a driver's desire for horsepower. Some engines are equipped to turn off cylinders when they are not needed, and simply fire them up when more power is desired.

6. Vary your route: Traffic doesn't just get you aggravated, it can impact the environment, too. Stop-and-go traffic reduces fuel economy and puts more wear and tear on a vehicle. Use a GPS system to figure out alternative routes to and from work or school that will reduce stress and environmental impact.

7. Slow and steady: Aim for a constant speed while driving and stick to it. Just 10 miles over the speed limit can eat up fuel. Pumping the accelerator sends more fuel into the engine. Use cruise control whenever possible on the highway.

8. Close the windows: If you'll be driving over 50 mph, close the windows. Driving with the windows open at highway speeds increases aerodynamic drag on the vehicle and lowers fuel economy.

9. Keep tires inflated: Make sure your tires are inflated to the recommended psi. This improves fuel economy by reducing rolling resistance and friction. Also, make sure tires are properly aligned so that they don't fight against one another on the road and waste fuel.

10. Lighten your load: Is your vehicle serving as an extra closet or storage unit? Excess weight could be costing you more at the pump. Take out extras you don't need from the trunk.

A few easy tips will have you driving greener instantly.

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