

# National Car Care Month Inspections Show 87% Failure Rate

Statistics from the National Car Care Month inspection campaign show an 87% failure rate, which continues to underscore the need for consumer education, according to the Car Care Council. The inspection lanes, conducted throughout the United States by sponsoring local organizations and businesses, are part of the automotive aftermarket industry's public awareness campaign, "Be Car Care Aware."

"Compared to the 90% failure rate last year, the 2004 inspection results indicate that the motoring public is beginning to understand the importance of maintaining their vehicle neglect," said Rich White, executive director of the Car Care Council. "While we are thrilled to see the numbers decrease, an 87% failure rate is too high. This just reinforces the fact that the aftermarket industry needs to continue to show its support for the campaign and keep the momentum going through donations and consumer education."

Volunteers across the country conducted the events. Coordinators reported their activities to the Car Care Council and returned inspection forms for compilation. The potential effects on highway safety, air quality, cost of operation, vehicle performance, and vehicle dependability are self-evident from the results. White said.

The following shows the percentage of motorists participating in the National Car Care Month inspection campaign whose vehicles failed each part of the inspection.

## Lubricants and Fluids

- Engine Oil 34%
- Coolant (add) 27%
- Brake Fluid 26%
- Transmission Fluid 26%
- Washer Fluid 26%
- Power Washer Fluid 23%
- Coolant (flush) 20%

## Windshield Wipers

- Windshield Wipers 14%
- Rear Wiper or Washer 12%

## Parts

- Belts 25%
- Air Filter 24%
- PCV Filter 17%
- Hoses 12%

## Battery

- Fluid Low or Sealed 16%
- Cables, Clamps, Terminals 15%
- Carrier/Hold Down 8%
- Test Eye 8%

## Tires

- Tire Pressure 25%
- Tread depth 10%

## Lights/Vision

- License Plate Lights 10%
- Brake Lights 9%
- Backup Lights 8%
- Side Lights 7%
- Turn Signals 5%
- Headlights 4%
- Parking Lights 3%
- Tail Lights 2%

As part of the "Be Car Care Aware" education campaign, the Car Care Council is offering a free service interval schedule to help take the guesswork out of what vehicle systems need to be routinely inspected and when service or repair should be performed. The schedule can be printed out for free from the Car Care Council's Web site at [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org). For more information, visit the Web site at [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org) or call 240-333-1088.