



David has the necessary equipment, skill and motivation to deliver outstanding real estate photography for a fair price.

David Showalter's...

Pleasantly Practical

Healthy, Successful & Fun Living...

10 Tips To Avoid Embarrassing Auto Troubles

Isn't it humiliating? You're sitting in your car at a busy intersection during rush hour. You're at the front of a long line of cars all eager to get going, and you can feel the tension.

As you sit there, you're thinking of all the things you need to do as soon as you get home. Then it happens. Sputter, chug...stop! Your engine quits. Your dash is lit up with glaring red and yellow lights.

Quickly you turn the key...but nothing happens. Right then, the traffic light turns green. Cars on all sides of you start rushing by. You can feel your hands sweating as you fumble around your controls, trying to get your car going.

The car behind you surges forward. The driver yells obscenities at you, as if you could control what's happening. Through the glaring of horns, the pressure of people cursing you...you wonder why this happened.

Most people don't think about their cars much - until there's a problem. And they usually surface at the most inappropriate time. Short of filling up the gas tank...perhaps only when it drops below "empty"...some people don't give their cars a second thought.

But cars are like any other mechanical device. To keep them in good shape, experts offer some tips on making sure your ride is dependable. Here's a list of 10 check-ups you can do to avoid those stressful, embarrassing moments when your car decides to die at the most inappropriate time.

Tip #1: First, change your oil frequently and regularly. Experts say the most important thing you can do to extend the life of your car is to change the oil every 3,000 miles or three months. A quick stop at a Fast-Lube shop can extend the life of your car by years, and save thousands of dollars in the process.

Tip #2: Once a month, look under the hood. This 15-minute investment can prevent 70 percent of the problems that lead to highway breakdowns. Check the fluid levels of oil, coolant, automatic transmission fluid, power steering fluid, break fluid and windshield washer fluid. windshield washer fluid.

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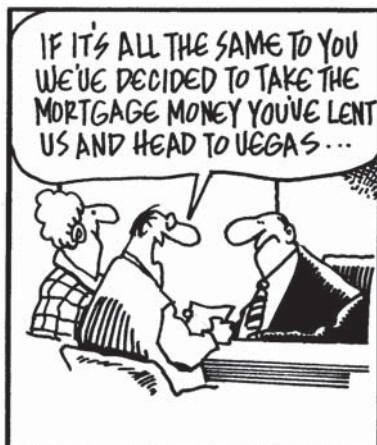
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Property unnoticed is property unsold.

Typical photos frequently fail to display valuable features and assets. Buyers seeking more value may bypass those listings.

Elevated photography often provides the optimum perspective to capture the attention of buyers!

Easy Does it Sheets

If you're like me, making up the bed with clean sheets can result in disoriented bedclothes. To make sure your feet will remain covered (as sheets are put on sideways), simply stitch a few strands of red thread to the middle of the bottom of the sheet, blanket, or comforter. That way you know which end goes at the foot of the bed—the first time!

Famous Quotes About Taxes

No one will ever come up with a funny income tax joke. It does, however, lend itself to some wry humor...

"There are two distinct classes of men...those who pay taxes, and those who receive and live upon taxes."
(Thomas Paine)

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is income tax!"
(Albert Einstein)

"When there is an income tax, the just man will pay more and the unjust less on the same amount of income."
(Plato)

"The government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend upon the support of Paul."
(George Bernard Shaw)

"There is no art which one government sooner learns from another than that of draining money from the pockets of the people."
(Adam Smith)

"Like mothers, taxes are often misunderstood, but seldom forgotten."
(Lord Bramwell)

"But in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."
(Benjamin Franklin)

"A taxpayer is someone who works for the federal government, but who does not have to take a civil service examination."
(Ronald Reagan)

And My All-Time Favorite...

"The trick is to stop thinking of it as *YOUR* money." (IRS Auditor)

If you don't know where to find these items, learn more about them by buying a how-to book or look up car maintenance on a website such as www.ehow.com. If you don't have time, ask a gas station attendant.

Tip #3: Never let your gas tank go to almost empty before filling up. The bottom of your fuel tank is loaded with deposits, dirt, and residue that's not good for your engine, fuel injectors, or carburetor.

Tip #4: Check tire inflation weekly, and alignment every six months. Properly inflated and aligned tires last longer, save money, and promote safety.

Tip #5: Change your vehicle's filters. Changing the air, fuel, and oil filters extends the life of your car, and makes it operate more efficiently.

Tip #6: Change your engine coolant at least once a year, preferably every six months. But be careful, coolant can be toxic and harmful if ingested by children or pets.

Tip #7: Lubricate moving and rubber parts. This includes windshield wipers, door rubber, and exposed gaskets.

Tip #8: Get rid of rust immediately. Rust will eat away your car, causing a premature demise. If you find a rusty spot, scrape it away and sand the area. Then protect the bare metal with primer and paint.

Tip #9: Wash your car frequently and keep it out of the sun. Driving a clean car (with clean windshield) improves visibility and enhances your safety. Additionally, ultraviolet rays can harm paint, especially metallic paints.

Tip #10: Most important: Schedule regular maintenance every 12,000 miles or one year, whichever comes first. Scheduled maintenance will keep warranties valid and maximize the value of your warranty. Plus, it prolongs the life of your vehicle, and will increase the value of your automobile when you decide to sell it.

Frequent auto maintenance can save you thousands, increase your car's value...and most certainly reduce the risk of sudden, embarrassing moments in traffic!



VilleView.com *Elevated Photography*

Typical Photo

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Did You Know....

- ✓ It is possible to lead a cow upstairs, but not downstairs.
- ✓ Coca-Cola was originally GREEN!
- ✓ Every day more money is printed for the board game MONOPOLY than the U.S. Treasury.
- ✓ The smartest dogs are: 1) Scottish border collie, 2) Poodle, and 3) Golden Retriever.
- ✓ The dumbest dog: Afghan hound.
- ✓ The Hawaiian alphabet has only 12 letters.

Daily Thought:

When you build bridges you can keep crossing them. -- Rick Pitino

The TRUE Value Of TIME...

We often forget how valuable our time is, until we see it all in perspective.

Here's what I mean...

To realize the value of one year, ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of one month, ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one hour, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of one minute, ask the person who has missed the train, bus, or plane.

To realize the value of one second, ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond, ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

Famous Quote...

"I went into McDonald's yesterday and said, 'I'd like some fries.' The girl at the counter said, 'Would you like some fries with that?'"

Jay Leno

Everyone Wins!

Elevated Photography reveals assets that can't be shown in typical photos. That attracts attention.

Buyers see more value and ask to be shown your listing. We all know how important that is!

Keep spreading the word. Your clients will understand and appreciate the efficiency of Elevated Photography.

Realtors and clients have been very pleased with the results.

Internet Offers Pet Travel Help

Going on vacation and leaving your trusted pet companion behind can be a traumatic experience – for both of you. And who can bear the sight of sad eyes as your pet watches you walk away from the boarding kennel.

Well, that doesn't need to be the case. There's a new resource for making your vacation as fun for your pet as it is for you. A listing of 25,000 hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, ski resorts, and campgrounds that welcome pets can be found at the www.petswelcome.com website. There's no need to leave Fido at home during your vacation.

The site also offers information on kennels, vets, and medical facilities for your pet when you are on the road. Also available are travel and moving tips, and other helpful information to pet owners on the road.

Helpful Tips For Around The Home

How To Remove Stubborn Burnt-On Food From Your Skillet: To easily remove burnt-on food from a skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover the bottom of the pan, and bring it to a boil on your stove.

Help For Today's Baker. When a cake recipe calls for flouring a baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead of flour, and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.

Easy On That Salt! If you accidentally over-salt a dish while it is still cooking, drop in a peeled potato and it will absorb the excess salt.

Soften That Brown Sugar. Place a slice of apple in hardened brown sugar to soften it.

Opening Tough Jars Easily. If you have trouble opening jars, try using latex dishwashing gloves. They give a non-slip grip that makes opening jars easy.

Airline Story

An airline pilot reported that on this particular flight he had hammered the plane onto the runway really hard. The airline had a policy that required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, give a smile and say, "Thanks for flying XYZ Airlines."

He said that in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a sly comment.

Finally, everyone had gotten off except for this little old lady walking with a cane.

The little lady walked up to him and said, "Sonny, mind if I ask you a question?" "Why no ma'am, what is it?" "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

Directions

A friend was thinking about buying a new house in the country and asked me to come out and look at it. We found the town, but we couldn't locate the road. We drove over to city hall, where a community get-together was going on, and asked around, but no one had heard of the road. Even the policemen and fire personnel were stumped.

We went into city hall and consulted a map, with no luck, until finally one young man came to our aid. He pointed to the map, showing us exactly how to get there. I thanked the young man and asked if he was with the police or fire department. "Neither," he replied. "I deliver pizzas."

THANK YOU for reading my Pleasantly Practical newsletter. I want to produce a newsletter that has great content and is fun and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

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David's Residential Real Estate Photograph for *This Issue*

An example of homes we saw while on vacation in Guatemala.



A New Experience with Old Ways.

My wife and I traveled to Guatemala with our twin daughters (school field trip) for our winter vacation. We visited our daughter and niece who are in V.S. and where there is less media input from the U.S.A. and little bad news from anywhere!

Guests at the home of my niece and her husband Jeff included Jerson and his 8 year old sister, Glenda. They are neighbors of Jeff and Crystal; however they were formerly from Honduras. While we were sitting around the table visiting after dinner the first evening, the children came and asked for our plates. They had the dishes washed by the time we were ready to leave the table!



The next morning Jeff took us upriver in a handmade wooden boat for a picnic breakfast. After we ate our breakfast which we heated on an open fire, the girls returned to the boat and found a school of fish. They playfully caught several of the small *pescados* (fish).

That afternoon we again boated upriver for Bible study and two of the men fished. While waiting for the men to return with the boat, Glenda gathered clams at the river. When she returned to the house, she promptly got a pan, added filtered water, and began putting the clams in the water. When questioned about what she was doing, she said, "Oh, that's how we did in Honduras. You have to cook them just right and then you can get them open!" Before we knew how it all happened, she had those clams cleaned out nicely and they were ready to fry! She served one to each of us at dinner that evening and

they were delicious! Another menu item was the fish the men caught that afternoon! I was served the fish head and was ready to eat it when someone told us, "the head is the best part!" Glenda said, "Of course, that's where the eyes are!" She offered to take the eyes and I couldn't refuse her polite pleading. Seeing her pleasure brought me a lot of satisfaction!! I am similarly delighted when I provide you with pleasing photographs!