## Keep a record of your repairs

Drivers who do some of their own vehicle maintenance and repairs - especially for the first time - should keep a complete maintenance and repair record.

Easy To Set Up

Setting up a record is easy. There are a dozen different prepared books you can purchase, or you can make your own. It's best however, to keep them in book form and in the glove compartment where you won't forget to log your work.

**Valuable Information** 

Maintaining a record of repairs and maintenance is valuable for two reasons: It helps you keep track of when certain preventive jobs are due - like changing oil and filters - and it gives you a complete record of what you've done to your car when it comes time to sell it or trade it in on a new model. (you'd be amazed at how much more believable a written record is when you're talking to service departments or sales managers).

Another value of a complete record is that the tax man looks far more kindly upon organized. documented records than he does a rumpled collection of receipts and notes. It's really simply a matter of organization

Information of Value

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The basic maintenance information you'll need to

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record are the date, the type of part, where it was purchased, the cost, when it was installed, and who installed it

Naturally, you'll also want to keep the receipts you get with any purchases. A simple envelope system (one for each month) will work fine. **Other Information** 

You may also want to record other information, specifically gas and oil purchases. If so, just add another two columns to record the date, amount and distance. This way you'll not only know your direct costs, you'll also be able to pretty accurately figure out your operating costs.

Bumper Talk is a column for automotive do-it=yourselfers, prepared in association with Bumper to Bumper, Canada's largest network of auto parts and accessories stores

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# Car will warn you if brakes failing

Unlike a tire that suddenly goes flat without a warning, your car's brake system often gives you ample notice that danger is imminent. Learning how to recognize those warning signals may give you time to correct the situation before a crisis occurs.

The action of your brake pedal is a good barometer of brake condition. A low brake pedal indicates need for fluid in the master cylinder or a brake adjustment

A spongy action in the pedal could

signify air in the lines, deteriorating hose or worn rubber parts in the master cylinder

Fading brake pedal action could mean badly worn or glazed lining or contaminated brake fluid. If extreme pressure is needed to stop, a sticky piston in the wheel cylinder or master cylinder, pinched brake hoses of lines may be suspected.

Noisy brakes are indications of possible poor brake-shoe-to-drum contact, weak or broken brake springs.







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