

How to beat the demon rust

By PETER KENNEDY

There is little question that corrosion in automobiles is a problem and one that has received a lot of attention from government and consumer groups.

All in all, it is a wonder that cars last as long as they do when you consider what they have working against them.

Using a heated garage is just about the worst thing you can do to your car. It may be great for you on cold winter mornings, but every time you leave the car there, the ice and slush melt and run down into the enclosed areas and box sections. The humidity gets to work and before you know it, you have a rusted car on your hands.

The average cost to have a car rust-proofed is between \$160 and \$200. When you consider the cost of cars, anything that will prolong its life has to be a good investment. Another point worth considering is the higher resale price or trade-in you can expect to receive with

a properly rust-proofed car.

When choosing your rustproofing company, there are a few points you should consider.

1) Deal only with a recognized professional firm, whose reputation is known and who provides a comprehensive written warranty.

2) Ask the rustproofing firm, whose reputation is known and who provides a comprehensive written warranty, if you can see the specifications he has covering your make and model of car. Every model is different and it is the areas you cannot see that cause problems for the rustproofing firm. If the applicator does not have specific instructions covering your model, how could he know if he is getting complete coverage in these enclosed areas?

3) Ask what training is given to the applicators. Your rust protection is only as good as the person applying it.

4) Find out what requirements there are to keep your warranty in force.

5) Is the rustproofing

claim on your warranty. covering the Mississauga area? If you have your car treated here and then move to Scarborough, Thunder Bay or Florida you won't want to return here for the required inspections or to make a

claim on your warranty. 6) Does the warranty specifically state which portions of the car have been treated or simply say that "all treated areas are covered under the warranty"? If so, you very likely

are not covered for areas that should have been treated but were missed.

Once you have decided to protect the considerable investment you have in your car, do some research into the many rustproofing

services offered in this area. The price of the rustproofing service should be of secondary concern.

Peter Kennedy is president of Ziebart Mississauga.

What to do if you're stranded on a highway

The Ontario Motor League suggests the following procedure if you should experience mechanical difficulties with your car.

- Stop the vehicle on the right-hand shoulder as far away from traffic as possible.

- Activate four-way flashers, raise the hood or tie a white cloth or handkerchief to the antenna or door handle to let others know that you require assistance.

- At night, the tail-lights and interior lights of the stopped vehicle should be on. The stopped car must be visible, but differentiated from a moving car.

- Where a disabled vehicle is stopped in such a position that a part or all of a traffic lane is blocked, portable warning devices

such as flares or a safety triangle should be placed to the rear of the stopped vehicle.

- While waiting for help, motorists should remain with their cars or nearby in a safe position off the travelled portion of the roadway. They should not walk or stand in or near traffic lanes or leave their cars unattended.

- Never stand between oncoming traffic and your car. And if you are trying to direct traffic around a car stalled in the roadway, walk for two or three minutes — well off the road — toward the oncoming traffic. Your warning, to have any value to other drivers, must come early enough to allow them to act.

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