

YOUR CAR'S WINDOWS AND MIRRORS

Use Them To Best Advantage



A clean window increases safety.

Safe driving requires good visibility, not only in front of you, but behind you. Here are some tips on how to keep your windows and mirrors clear of fog, frost or dust.

Your Windshield

Your windshield withstands a lot of wear and tear from flying debris and air pollution. Eventually the glass becomes etched, even causing new wiper blades to streak. To reduce streaking, try rubbing down the windshield each month with a solution of non-abrasive cleaner and water.

Windshield wipers should be checked monthly. The rubber squeegees gradually deteriorate from exposure to the elements. A defective squeegee streaks your windshield and can even scratch it. If your wipers are streaking, replace the squeegees.

After checking the wipers, operate the windshield washer to be

sure the liquid is hitting the glass where the wipers sweep. Some nozzles can be adjusted with a straight pin, screwdriver or needle-nose pliers. Refer to your owner's manual for the correct procedure. Check and fill the washer reservoir if needed. Don't neglect the rear window wiper if your vehicle has one.

Clean Glass And Lights

With a quality glass cleaner or your own 1:5 solution of rubbing alcohol and water, give the inside of all glass surfaces on the vehicle a good cleaning. While you're inside your vehicle, tighten the rear-view mirror and clean it, too. If the mirror has loosened from the inside of the windshield, there are special kits available to help you tighten it.

Always keep your headlights clean and properly aimed. Don't forget your tail lights, brake lights and directional lights. Check the

tightness of your side-view mirrors. If your vehicle doesn't have a right side mirror, consider installing one. Inexpensive kits are available at auto parts stores.

Rear Window

The rear defrosters on most late-model vehicles have heating elements glued to the inside of the rear window. When cleaning the inside rear window, wipe parallel to these grids. Use a soft cloth and non-abrasive cleaner.

Take care when loading station wagons and hatchbacks to avoid cutting or breaking these grid lines. Avoid using a scraper to remove decals glued on the defroster grid. Instead, try loosening the decal with a heat gun or hair dryer.

If the defroster is malfunctioning, run a finger along the grid to feel for the broken element. This can be repaired with a special kit.

