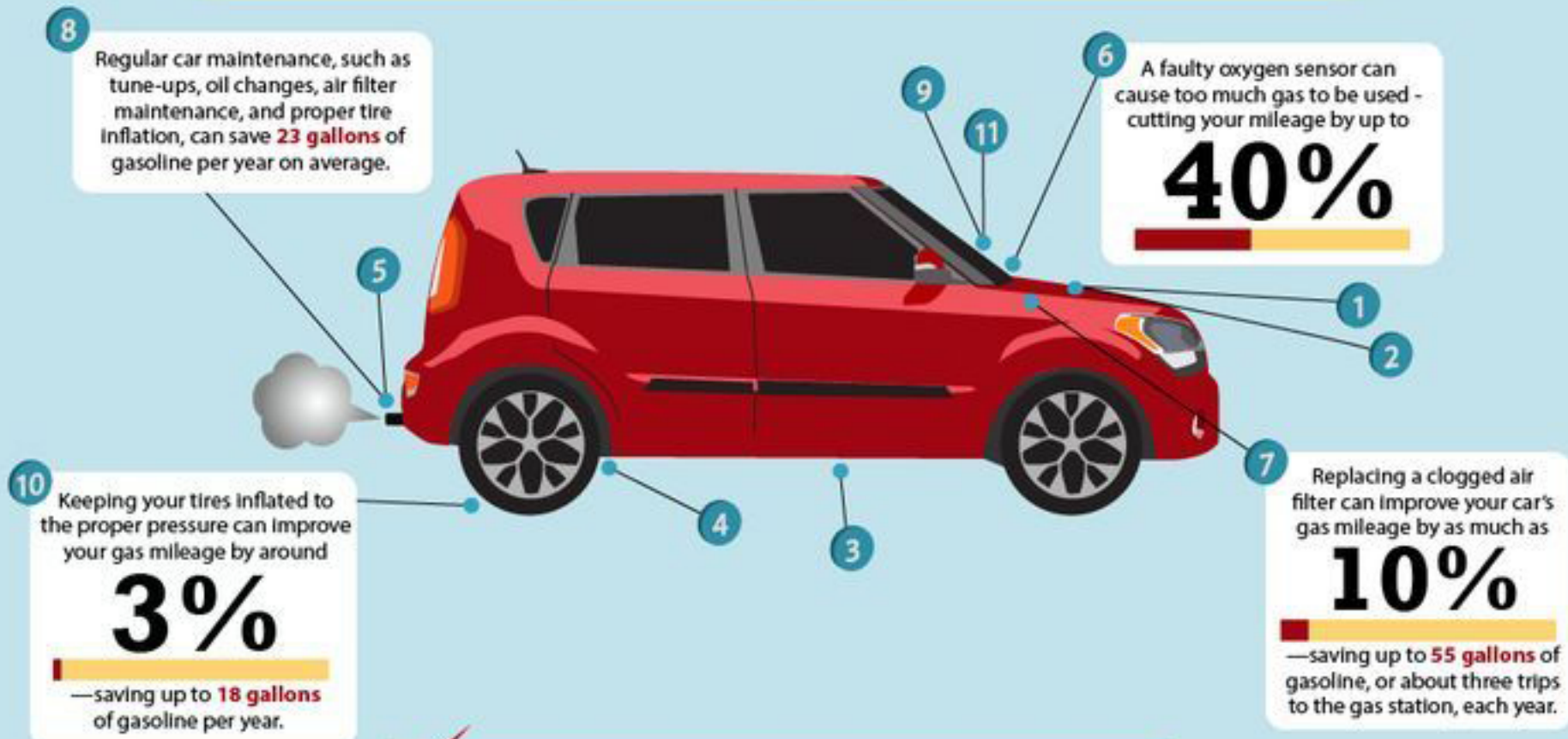


Getting Your Car Ready For Spring

We're finally at the end of a long, rough winter. Time to look forward to long drives with the windows down and the music up. But preparing your car for your next road trip means more than giving it a wash and a wax. You need to be sure your vehicle is in tip-top shape, inside and out.



Use this checklist to get your car ready for safe, sunny days.

- 1 Fluid Levels**
Top off engine oil, power steering, brake fluid, transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, and antifreeze.
- 2 Hoses And Belts**
Look for cracks, fraying, or excessive wear, and replace as necessary.
- 3 Battery**
Look for clean, tight, corrosion-free connections and plenty of juice.
Signs of a weak battery: dimming headlights or interior lights; power windows that take longer than usual to go up and down.
- 4 Brakes**
Get brake linings, rotors, and drums inspected.
Trouble signs: pulling to one side when you hit the brakes, squeaking or grinding noises and a brake pedal that feels too soft.
- 5 Exhaust System**
Look for leaks, damage, and broken supports.
- 6 Oxygen Sensor**
Replace this sensor every 30K to 50K miles.
- 7 HVAC**
Do the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning work properly?
- 8 Schedule a tune-up.**
- 9 Steering and suspension**
Check shock absorbers, struts, ball joints, and other structural elements.
- 10 Tires**
Fill tires to optimal psi (pounds per square inch). Check tread and look for wear, bulges, and bald spots. Replace worn tires. Uneven wear could mean you need an alignment.
- 11 Visibility**
Clean wipers and replace worn-out ones. Clean head and tail lights, inside and out