

# MAINTENANCE



## WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

Cars and refrigerators have something in common. That is, when either one starts to warm up they can tend to stink. I think most of us have had more winter than we choose to and now are welcoming a little spring weather, but with the warm up you may find some of those things you lost over the winter, I'll elaborate later. I noticed a funny smell in my car that was not there during the cold winter and decided it was time for a good spring cleaning. It's funny what goes unnoticed in the cold of winter, cars make great refrigerators.

I started with a good wash on the outside of the car, you want to wash your car often during the winter, preferably in an automatic wash equipped with an under car rinse to remove road salt. Road salt is the most damaging element next to the sun, and when it is covered by packed on mud and snow its affects are multiplied. Most professional washes, and convenience store washes, are equipped with underbody flushes. Regular washing can save you many dollars in under car maintenance and extend the life of your car.

### On to the interior!

You're probably still wondering what I lost over the winter? Well... In the world of the fast food drive through and on the go lunches, dinners, and the occasional... well for me, frequent snack, things tend to sometimes get lost.



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I vaguely remember that Missing Taco Johns burrito, but the warm weather helped me to find it under a seat. For those of you with children in the car, and some without, things tend to pile up over the winter, the Cheerios, the spilled coffee, or even the occasional burrito. All of these things can lead to a summer smell we can live without.

Start with a good carpet cleaning, clean under everything. You'll be surprised at what you may find. For coffee and other sticky messes spilled on the dash and carpet, Simple Green or other light cleaners work well. Getting these spills cleaned up before they have a chance to get into the shifter mechanism or other parts of the dash can save hundreds. We replace many expensive shifters due to a 99 cent cup of coffee. Once the carpet is clean you can go a

step further and use either carpet cleaner in a can to remove stains left from food or salt, or visit a local self serve car wash with a carpet shampooer. Don't forget the trunk! This is a great place for smells to hide.

Something you should not overlook if you own a car newer than 2000, a Cabin Air Filter. Cabin air filters clean all of the incoming air that is delivered by the vehicles ventilation system. They are designed to reduce allergens and to keep the system components and the interior of the car cleaner. The drawback is that the filters must be replaced or they will cause problems.

Cabin air filters are just like house furnace filters. They are made of a paper media and look much like a house filter but smaller. They tend to get dirty faster than our house filter due

to the dust and high moisture run into while driving. This can lead to reduce air flow and foggy windows, poor a/c and heat, and musty odors. If you experience any of these symptoms start with a cabin air filter.

If you are not sure if your vehicle has a cabin air filter check with an auto parts store. They can tell you if it has one and where it is located. Most filters are very easy to change, have good instructions in the box, and take between 5 and 15 minutes to change.

A good clean vehicle always feels like it runs better, and depending on what was dirty it just might!

If you have questions about your vehicles systems or want to know how they work, send an email to [help@underthehoodshow.com](mailto:help@underthehoodshow.com) and you may find it in The Motor Market. <sup>TMM</sup>

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