

AutoShack Weekly Tip



- Keeping a clean engine is an important part of vehicle upkeep.
- Among automotive aficionados, there is a saying that “my engine is so clean I can eat from it”.
- We doubt that anyone at AutoShack has ever eaten from their engine. Maybe, one day someone will try, but we can tell you this; a clean engine can help hold your car’s value and help prevent some issues.
- The downside of attempting to clean your engine is that sometimes after a visit to the car wash, your engine refuses to start.
- In this tip we discuss some things to do to avoid car troubles after an engine wash.

• **What are the benefits of cleaning your engine?**

- A clean engine helps to keep the engine running cooler and at the optimum temperature. Too much grease, grime and dirt can make it difficult for air to make contact with the engine to help cool it.
- A clean engine compartment free of grease and engine fluid is important for hoses. Grease and engine fluids contain chemicals that deteriorate hoses, shortening their useful life.
- A dusty and debris-filled engine compartment can cause sneezing episodes if the dust and debris make their way into the air filter. Cleaning helps to alleviate this problem.

- **What do I need to know about cleaning an engine (dos and don'ts)?**
 - While most people will go to the car wash to get their engines cleaned, it's important to get involved to ensure that the car wash attendant is following the necessary steps.
 - Here are some things to keep in mind.
 - Allow the engine to cool down before applying cold water to it. Not doing so can cause cracks and eventual small leaks in the engine.
 - Remove battery negative terminal.
 - Cover alternator, ignition coil, distributor and carburetor (if your vehicle doesn't use fuel injectors).
 - Cover the air intake connection to the engine. Water in the engine will cause performance issues.
 - Cover electrical connectors. Water is a good conductor of electricity . Also, water intrusion in electrical connectors can cause electrical problems. We've seen an instance of vehicle computer damage after visiting a car wash and having the engine cleaned.

- **What do I need to know about cleaning an engine (dos and don'ts)? ...continued**
- Do not take a pressurized hose or allow a pressurized hose to be taken to your engine. The water should be flowing mildly. Water cannot remove grease so spraying firmly flowing steam of water to dislodge dust and debris is usually more than enough.
- If possible let the engine sit and dry in an airy place with the hood opened. Most engines are made of aluminum so allowing water to sit on it for too long can cause rust.

Engine cleaning before and after photo

Before



After



- Click the links below to visit/contact us to learn more about us and how we might be able to assist you.
 - t: +1-517-962-0616
 - e: autoshackghana@autoshackghana.com
 - w: www.autoshackghana.com
 - mw: m.autoshackghana.com
- A majority of the tip topics are suggested by others based on their experiences.
- Consider helping others to benefit from your experiences by suggesting a topic for our tip bank based on your car troubles, experiences or observations.

CREDITS

- ✓ Engine cleaning before and after photo:
www.gannondetailing.com