



After a long summer finishing up our move, we are finally getting settled. It is now time to get back on line with **Technically Speaking**. With winter closing in quickly, it is also time to make sure your BMW does not visit your service facility of choice on the bed of a tow truck.

In this month's edition of **Technically Speaking** we will highlight the common items that should be checked to insure your best chance of trouble free driving through the long Michigan winter.

**Oil Service** – Our recommendation remains – change your oil frequently. If you run non-synthetic oil, every 3000 miles. Synthetic oil can go 5000 to 7500. Frequent oil changes accomplish two things. First it will prolong engine life. Secondly, assuming you take your car to a service facility that specializes in BMWs, it insures that a qualified technician can give the car a quick look over for preventative maintenance purposes.

**Wipers** – Please resist the temptation to buy generic wiper blades or inserts for your BMW. In most cases it only causes problems. Any service facility that specializes in BMWs should have the correct insert for your

car. Stick with the correct parts and it will always be easy to change wiper inserts on a regular basis.

**Cabin Filters** – A clogged cabin filter prevents your defroster and heater from working quickly, or at all. Most of the newer BMWs have cabin filters that replaceable in seconds. Although the filter(s) themselves are not inexpensive, there is usually no labor charge to replace them. The older cars had the cabin filters hidden and require a skilled technician to correctly replace them. Even if you have a BMW that fits this category, it is well worth the expense for the comfort and safety of having the heat and defrost systems working properly. The added benefit of clean cabin filters is you breath clean air.

**Battery** – We always sell more batteries when the seasons change (hot or cold). Extremes in temperature will drive a marginal battery over the edge. If the battery in your car is over four to five years old, it is on borrowed time. Why not replace it before you need a jump-start in 10-degree weather? Seriously, batteries can be checked, however just because they are still good today does not mean they will last through harsh winter weather.

**Belts** – While the car is on the hoist for an oil service, it is easy to check the condition of your belts. If a belt breaks, your car needs a tow. If a belt breaks you also have a likelihood of damage to another component. This preventative maintenance is always worth completing as soon as a belt shows wear or age cracks.

**Fluid changes** – Both brake fluid and engine coolant need to be replaced on a regular basis. Consult with your BMW specialist to determine what is appropriate for your car. A check of the cooling system for leaks is also important. If BMWs have an Achilles Heel, it is the cooling system. Caring for a component that needs to be replaced before it breaks is always less expensive and less inconvenient than waiting for it to break. Brake fluid needs to be changed to insure a properly functioning brake system. Experience shows that most of the cars we rebuild brake calipers on, or replace calipers on, have not had regular fluid changes. Brake fluid attracts moisture and moisture causes the calipers to rust and seize.

**Tires** – Many of our customers switch to four snow tires during the winter. Regardless of whether you use the same tires year round or switch to snows, make sure that your tires are in good shape. There is nothing more dangerous than driving on tires that do not grip in the cold, wet Michigan weather.

In closing, your BMW is most capable of surviving a Michigan winter. With proper preventative maintenance it will also be an enjoyable and reliable car to drive. Have the BMW specialist of your choice take a look at it prior to the nasty weather setting in. Next month – Purchasing a previously owned 7-Series.

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