

## Top 5 Tips For Keeping A Transmission Going Strong

Going, going gone. While you expect to hear this phrase come from an auctioneer's mouth, it's the last thing you want to hear from your mechanic regarding your car's transmission. The transmission is vital to your car's operation, and by not taking proper care of it, you could end up with costly repairs or an expensive rebuild down the road. The good news is, by being aware of a few things and having some regular maintenance performed, you can ensure that your car's transmission gives you years of good service. Here are the top five practices to keep your car's transmission running strong:

1. **Know Your Car.** Every manufacturer has different specifications about when a car's transmission needs to be serviced and what type of transmission fluid should be used. These intervals can range from 30,000 miles to 60,000 and even up to 100,000 miles for newer models. You should always consult your owner's manual to see when service intervals are recommended and be sure that the shop performing the service is aware of these specifications. If you've bought a used car and do not have maintenance records for the vehicle, it's best to bring your car to a Speedy Marietta Transmission specialist for an evaluation. This is especially true if the car has high mileage.
2. **Stop Before You Shift.** When a car is shifted between park, reverse and drive without coming to a complete stop with your foot solidly applied to the brake, it weakens and may even strip the transmission's gears which can spell trouble for your transmission. You should never feel a jolt when you change gears. Also, it is recommended that you let the car idle for a few minutes to warm up the engine before you shift.
3. **Keep Your Eye on Fluid Levels.** Unlike oil, transmission fluid doesn't burn off but it can get dirty or leak which can lead to damage. We recommend that the transmission fluid be checked every 6 months by a Speedy Marietta Transmission certified technician. But if you're the DIY type, checking the level, quality and color of your transmission fluid is much like checking the oil. The car's engine should be warm and running with the vehicle in park in order to do this. First you locate the dipstick, pull it out and wipe with a lint free rag, dip it back in and pull it out. This process allows you to determine if the level, color and fluidity of the transmission fluid is correct. Murky or dark transmission fluid will need to be replaced. If the fluid is low, it's a good idea to bring your car in to check for leaks.
4. **Don't Tow More Than Your Vehicle Was Designed to Tow.** Towing boats and campers can put enormous strain on a car's transmission. Be sure that the towing vehicle is heavy duty enough to tow the load without compromising the transmission. Some vehicles have an auxiliary transmission cooler which helps reduce the stress on a car's transmission during towing. Adding an external transmission cooler can extend the life of your transmission if you use it to tow. Feel free to come by Speedy Marietta Transmission and let us check to see if your vehicle is eligible for the addition.
5. **Be Alert To Changes.** A transmission is one of the costliest components on a car to repair so if you suspect anything is off, it's best to bring your vehicle in right away. You should "listen" to your transmission in the same way the doctor tells you to listen to your body. Know what's normal for your car and be on the lookout for anything unusual like leaking fluid, a fishy smell, gears that don't shift smoothly or the sound of grinding. Just like your health, if there's a problem, it's best to catch it early before further damage is done.

At Speedy Marietta Transmission Shop, we offer 75 years of combined experience and we work with all makes and models. We also offer a free diagnosis. Book your appointment today via our convenient and easy online system!