

Is the 'tune-up' service back?

Today's tune-ups are very different to those of yesteryear; there are no points to adjust and no carburettor to tweak but nevertheless a tune-up is essential to keep a vehicle running optimally.

But thinking today's high-tech cars don't need a tune-up is false economy. A small problem with today's 'thinking' machinery is that the ECU compensates for irregularities. Where you once could hear a 'ping', the ECU feels the problem and adjusts to deal with it.

This often means the vehicle seems to run well when in fact it is using more fuel and lacking performance.

A driver doesn't necessarily feel the detuning because it's gradual. They will feel it in their hip pocket, though, when the problem overwhelms the vehicle's ECU and becomes a major repair.

Preventative maintenance with a new-fashion 'tune-up' service can keep problems at bay.

One of the biggest issues with diesel vehicles comes about due to the exhaust-gas recirculation (EGR) valve, which recirculates exhaust gases back into the intake manifold.

Over time the intake manifold becomes coated with soot, reducing the air-mass volume. This combines with the oil in the manifold to create a real mess.

As the carbon builds in the manifold, the motor slowly chokes. The ECU then tries to compensate for the reduced air-mass volume by continuing the detuning, resulting in loss of performance, economy, driveability and poor emissions. Eventually the vehicle may struggle to even run.

The customer may not notice this gradual decline in performance. Often it becomes a major issue and the only option left is to pull the manifold off and perform a manual clean, a costly exercise for the customer.

This, however, can be avoided with regular cleans, leading us back to the modern-day 'tune-up' service.

Bringing this to the attention of your customer is an effective way of ensuring they understand the consequences of not having tune-ups as part of their service.

Cleaning the manifold will maximise performance and fuel economy. Your customer will notice the difference in their hip pocket and under their right foot. It's a simple way to explain to customers that a tune-up is becoming a fundamental part of normal servicing.

Once the vehicle has had its tune-up, it will breathe properly again and the ECU will reset parameters to take this into account. Instant results can be achieved by using a scan-tool to reset the air-mass volume or it may take several trips for the car to relearn and retune.

It will become obvious that the vehicle drives with increased pep and improved fuel economy.

Envirotek Diesel Power Boost (DPB)

When introducing flammable products into the intake of a diesel engine, you are introducing a product that will ignite under pressure and risk run-on. Run-on could end in major damage or a dead engine.

DPB is detergent based so will not cause run-on. This product is claimed to be so safe and easy to use it really is a one-person job in the workshop.

DPB is sprayed directly into the intake manifold using the EnviroKleen canister. It can also run pre-turbo, which is often necessary, especially with European vehicles, meaning you can get the product into the system without creating a huge amount of work for the technician.

While it's always advisable to perform the clean in a well-ventilated area, a benefit of DPB is low odour levels during the cleaning process. There is little to no noticeable smell associated with the product.

Envirotek Petrol Power Boost (PPB)

Air-mass volume reduction doesn't just happen to diesel vehicles – petrol cars often suffer as well.

Many car manufacturers now employ direct-injection petrol engines. These engines often suffer carbon build-up on the back of the valves where fuel from the injectors in the manifold would once clean them.

As a mechanic you can hear the pre-detonation ping and it is something to point out to your customer. This issue can be especially pronounced if your customer is using low-quality fuels.

Detailing the benefits of a Envirotek PPB tune-up can help to educate the customer on vehicle maintenance.

Envirotek products are formulated to perform this essential tune-up service on both diesel and petrol vehicles with minimal effort and maximum safety and efficiency.

Envirotek is Australian made and made for the trade. A safe and simple solution. Remember to support trade-only products that aren't selling to your customers.

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envirotek.net.au
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