

Winter Motoring.

Do other club members also use their Austin's as essential and regular transport throughout the winter months? If so, perhaps the following suggestions will prove helpful.

1 Completely service the car, including an oil change, if using monograde oil replenish with SAE30, multigrade users can use a 15-40 grade.

2 Wash underside of car, removing as much as possible of mud build up, allow to dry and spray with Waxoyl or similar product. Wash bodywork, polish with good quality wax polish, apply Waxoyl to brightwork and then only lightly polish. This provides an excellent protection against winter weather and salt etc.

4. Monitor regularly tyre pressures and tread condition. From experience your Seven will travel through snow much better than modern cars, but be warned their narrow section tyres are not so good on icy roads.

5. Maintain your battery in a fully charged condition by regularly topping up with a trickle charge. Remember winter use will place extra load on the electrical system.

6. Remove the fan belt to assist with warming up, with an engine and radiator in good condition the fan belt can be safely removed without fear of overheating. My Seven runs without a fan belt from November to March each year and is in everyday use with a mixture of heavy traffic and long runs.

7. On cold mornings avoid overloading your battery and starter motor, start the car by use of the handle.

8. Make sure your car's cooling system is filled with an antifreeze mixture of the correct strength. This can safely be left permanently in the cooling system, it will help prevent internal corrosion of aluminium and iron fittings.

9. Finally, if your car like mine spends most of its life outside, it will appreciate on cold nights its engine being covered with an old rug or blanket. This serves to trap in residual heat and to keep the electrical system dry, but be very careful to remove the cover before starting the engine!

Eddie Loader.