

How to improve your night vision for a safer ride

Drivers young and old know it can be dangerous to drive at night, when vision is easily compromised by poorly lit roads, glare from other vehicles and a host of additional hazards. Such obstacles can easily cause car accidents, roughly one-third of which occur at night.

But while external factors like inadequate lighting on roadways or glare from other vehicles can contribute to poor driving conditions, nighttime accidents are often caused by a driver's own vision. A driver's visual acuity is reduced by 70 percent at night, a figure that is even higher among older drivers. The human eye is simply not adapted for nocturnal vision, so colors tend to disappear and contrast fades away while driving at night.

That reality is why drivers must take steps to improve their vision when driving at night. Fortunately, there are several ways motorists can do just that.

- **Inspect headlight lenses.** The plastic headlight lenses used on today's cars can get increasingly cloudy over time. They tend to yellow and get hazy from the effects of ozone, road debris, pollution, age, and even trips to the carwash. As a result, headlight lenses can quickly become ineffective.

But if headlight lenses appear cloudy or yellow upon inspection, drivers don't have to break the bank with a costly headlight replacement. The Philips Headlight Lens Restoration Kit can restore the lens to "like new" clarity. It's easy to use and has a UV

coating that will protect the plastic from further damage.

- **Frequently check windshield washer fluid.** Inclement weather not only makes road conditions unpredictable and often treacherous, but also makes it easy for drivers to forget to check their windshield washer fluid. Popping the hood to check your vehicle's fluid levels when it's snowing or just downright freezing outside might not be enjoyable, but it is necessary. Salt from snowy roads or debris blown about from winter winds can easily accumulate on the windshield, greatly reducing visibility. Be sure to check your windshield washer fluid routinely during the winter months, and clean your headlights after driving in inclement weather to remove dirt, film, snow and ice buildup.

- **Replace headlight bulbs.** The performance of a headlight bulb dwindles over time, as a bulb's light output is reduced by humidity, electrical resistance, filament fatigue and general usage. To combat normal wear and tear, experts recommend that vehicle owners replace their headlight bulbs every two years.

When replacing headlight bulbs, drivers can upgrade existing bulbs with a new generation of high performance light bulbs that mark a dramatic improvement over the traditional halogen bulbs that are standard on most vehicles. Philips Upgrade Headlight Bulbs are designed to put substantially more



Driver vision comparison: Standard headlight with reduced light output (left) and Philips X-tremeVision upgrade bulb with clear headlight lens (right).

light on the road while creating a better beam pattern that is much longer than that produced by standard halogen bulbs. The Philips Headlight Bulbs come in a variety of types that are tailored to meet specific driver's needs from daily commuters to soccer moms to sports enthusiasts. Even motorcycle owners can benefit from the improved lighting with the Philips MotoVision Headlight Bulb, a special light made for motorcycles that also creates a unique orange reflection so other motorists distinguish the motorcycle from other vehicles.

- **Routinely clean your vehicle's glass**

and mirrors. Debris and film buildup on the windshield glass and your rearview and side view mirrors can reduce vision, especially for drivers who smoke inside their vehicles. Make cleaning the glass and mirrors inside and outside of your vehicle part of your routine maintenance. It won't take very long and it will significantly improve visibility. When cleaning side view mirrors, be sure to properly adjust them to eliminate blind spots.

More information on improving your vehicle's lighting is available at www.philips.com/automotive.

Great tips that will help sell your vehicle

Escalating costs of new cars have led many buyers to look to the preowned vehicle market when the time comes to replace their existing automobiles. Preowned vehicles can be a great bargain, putting drivers behind the wheels of relatively new cars at a fraction of the cost of brand new cars.

While the rising reputation of preowned vehicles has been good for automotive dealerships with vast inventories of trade-ins, it's also been good for private sellers, who no longer have to deal with the stigma once assigned to preowned cars and trucks. Private sellers who want to get top dollar for their preowned vehicles can take several simple steps that might help them sell their vehicles quickly and at a price they can be happy with.

- **Organize maintenance receipts.** According to Edmunds.com, an online resource for all things automotive, the average price of

a preowned car reached a record \$16,800 in 2014. That's a significant sum of money, and as a result preowned vehicle buyers are no longer taking the risks they might once have been willing to take when buying older, less expensive cars and trucks. Many prospective buyers expect to see a vehicle's maintenance history, so sellers should organize their maintenance receipts for everything from routine oil changes to tire rotations and so on. If you did not keep your receipts, visit your mechanic and request a statement indicating your vehicle maintenance history. Make copies of these receipts and statements and have them readily available when prospective buyers come to look at your vehicle.

- **Get a vehicle inspection before putting it up for sale.** Many sellers put their cars on the



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