



8 Inexpensive Ways to Improve Your Car

After owning one car for many years, many drivers gradually come to the conclusion that they are missing something in their cars. Some of them want to replace outdated technology with a more modern one, slightly increase power, controllability, or safety. In attempts to improve car appearance or performance, drivers can make mistakes that actually worsen the car or lead to significant expenses. Fortunately, there are many inexpensive ways to really improve your car.

Below are 8 cheap modifications to help you improve and refresh your car.

1. Replace brake lines

Most manufacturers install in their cars rubber brake lines that corrode, expand in extreme heat, and crack in cold weather. So why do manufacturers continue using rubber brake lines? The answer is simple, they are cheaper. For greater reliability, you can replace the standard rubber brake lines with braided stainless steel tubes. They will not rot, expand at high temperatures and crack. This will help prevent brake fluid from leaking.

There is also an option of replacing rubber tubes with copper or aluminum ones. However, these materials form a galvanic pair and cause the development of oxides at the junction. Over time, this can worsen the tightness of the brake system.

2. Replace the factory exhaust

It's not about the size or the noise. It's about improving airflow and getting extra power in the process. Depending on your car, you expect to get a catback kit for just \$200. While you won't gain much power, you will get some response and a whole different feel to the car. An exhaust that you can hear makes the vehicle feel faster since you can hear the engine operating, which will make you pleased.

Just make sure you conduct some research on the different exhausts and pick one that sounds as you want it to sound. Also, it is recommended to buy a catback kit rather than making your own because it's tough to make it sound decent and prevent droning when choosing mufflers. If you aren't sure you can make it on your own, [contact an auto repair](#) service.

3. New multimedia system

Car manufacturers continue installing outdated manual audio systems even in modern cars while in cars manufactured before 2010, this is usually the only option. Instead of such an outdated system, you can install a multimedia system with a touch panel, somewhat similar to a tablet. Moreover, such a modification is possible for most cars without and the tablet often fits harmoniously into the interior of the cabin.

The touch multimedia system isn't only radio and playback from flash drives, but also a navigator with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, support for Android applications, the ability to watch videos, and other useful options. In addition, you can connect a rear-view camera to the system, making it a parking sensor and a video recorder.

4. Replace bushings

One of the simplest and most inexpensive modifications is replacing standard rubber or plastic bushings with polyurethane ones. Rubber has many disadvantages, including rapid wear under load and short life. Plastic is noisy and cannot withstand high loads. Although polyurethane bushings make the suspension more rigid, they are durable and can potentially save you from expensive repairs.

5. Shorten the gear lever

You may notice that in new cars equipped with a manual gearbox the lever has become noticeably shorter than in older models. This makes gear shifting smoother and more comfortable for the driver and also shortens the time between gear changes. The shorter the shift, the less time the driver will hold the steering wheel with one hand, which improves safety.

Installing a short gearshift lever isn't a complicated procedure. Often, it requires only a die for tapping an external thread and a hacksaw for metal. Thanks to this modification, the accuracy and [clarity of switching gears](#) will increase significantly.

6. Reduce weight

Manufacturers use lightweight materials like aluminum and plastic in newer cars. But in the old weighty materials like metal are used almost always. Because of this, cars with engines of the same power can have different acceleration dynamics and handling. One easy way to improve handling and accelerate the car is to remove heavy parts and replace them with lighter ones.

For example, a spare tire can weigh more than 22 pounds, and an air conditioner more than 44. Removing or replacing these parts can help you reduce the weight of your car by 220 pounds. Keep in mind that each car is designed for its weight, and therefore, with a lighter body, it can react more sharply to steering and become less stable at high speeds.

7. Brake system update

One of the most inexpensive tuning options to make your car safer is new discs, calipers, and pads. But choice depends on your goals. For example, if the goal is quiet and gentle braking, then ceramic pads are the best choice. They generate little dust, which has a positive effect on the total resource of the wheels.

If the braking system has to withstand high loads, semi-metallic pads are the best option. Semi-metallic parts dissipate heat well, but they are not suitable for everyday use, as they are noisier and emit a lot of dust that settles in the calipers. This can negatively affect the resources of the wheels.

8. Invest in premium oil

Fully synthetic premium motor oil often costs between \$10-\$15 and this is more than ordinary motor oil. Moreover, if you drive your car to an auto shop to have the oil changed instead of doing it yourself, you can expect to pay up to \$75. If you have a car that has a lot of miles, this investment may be worthwhile. Synthetic premium motor oils include chemicals that help lubricate the engine, [extend the life of your vehicle](#), and enhance the performance of high mileage vehicles.

Synthetic oil is often slicker, allowing it to flow more readily through the engine components. This prevents the oil from thickening and causing sludge buildup, which can increase the risk of other major breakages. Premium engine oil is also associated with better gas mileage, which saves you money in the long run.