



Food Truck Care List

1. Drive with care every day and your food truck will reward you with longer intervals without repair.
2. Do not race your engine during start-up. This is a quick way to add years of wear to your engine, especially if it's cold outside.
3. Accelerate slowly when you begin your drive. The most wear to the engine and drive train occurs in the first ten to twenty minutes of operation.
4. Warming the engine by letting it idle in the commissary parking lot is not a smart idea. The engine doesn't operate at its peak temperature resulting in: incomplete fuel combustion, soot deposits on cylinder walls, oil contamination and ultimately damaged components.
5. Put less strain on your engine and automatic transmission by shifting to neutral at red lights. Otherwise the engine is still working to push the truck even while it's stopped.
6. Avoid driving at high speeds and accelerating quickly, especially when it's very hot or very cold outside. Such driving behavior will result in more frequent repairs.
7. Extend the life of your tires with careful driving. Observe posted speed limits. Avoid fast starts, stops, and turns. Avoid potholes and objects on the road. Don't run over curbs or hit the tire against the curb when parking.
8. When turning your steering wheel, don't hold it in an extreme right or left position for more than a few seconds. Doing so can damage the power-steering pump.
9. Consolidate your short driving trips. Most of the wear and tear — as well as the pollution your food truck generates — takes place in the first few minutes of driving.
10. Buy gas at reputable service stations.
11. Don't fill up if you see the tanker. If you happen to see a gasoline tanker filling the tanks at your local gas station, come back another day or go to a different station. As the station's underground tanks are being filled, the turbulence can stir up sediment. Sediment in your gas can clog fuel filters and fuel injectors, causing poor performance and possibly necessitating repairs.
12. Lighten up your key chain. Does your food truck key share a chain with a dozen or more other keys? That's a pretty heavy load hanging off the car key when it's in the ignition. The weight, combined with bouncing while you drive, can wear out the tumblers inside the ignition and eventually lead to ignition switch failure. To add years of service to your ignition switch, purchase a lightweight key chain that allows you to separate your ignition key from the others. Drive with only the ignition key in your ignition. If your ignition key "sticks" when you try to turn on the truck, it's a warning that your ignition switch is about to fail. Replace your ignition switch before you get stranded.
13. Keep an auto log. Keep a pad and pencil in the glove compartment and use them to record your gas fill-ups and mileage. If you notice that your gas mileage worsens, mention it to your service man. It may be an early warning sign that something is wrong with your truck.
14. Preserve your truck during long-term storage. If you are not going to use your truck for more than a month, store it properly to prevent unnecessary damage and repairs upon your return.

15. Fill the gas tank to help prevent condensation from accumulating in the gas tank. Add a fuel stabilizer and drive the car around a bit to distribute the additive to engine parts.
16. Place a vapor barrier on your garage floor. A 4-mil polyethylene drop cloth will do.
17. Disengage the parking brake to help avoid brake corrosion.
18. Put the truck on jack stands to take the weight of the vehicle off the wheels and tires.
19. Disconnect and remove the battery to keep it from draining. Place the battery on a trickle type charger or periodically drain the battery. You can easily drain the battery using a small light bulb and then recharge it with a low-volt charger.
20. Plug the tailpipe with a rag to prevent moist air from infiltrating into it.
21. Change your engine's oil and generator's oil once a month or every 3,000 miles, whichever comes first.
22. Full tune up every 25,000 miles. Includes but not limited to: spark plugs, wires, oil change, air filter, fuel induction cleaning, fuel filter, transmission flush, rear differential service and brake flush.
23. Brake inspection every oil change.
24. Tire rotation every other oil Change.
25. Alignment of suspension every 6 months or in larger cities with bad roads, every 3 months.
26. Truck should be cleaned after every day. This will help with overall look and easiness of cleaning.
27. Waste water tank needs to be emptied every day.
28. Propane tanks checked for leakage every day before starting.
29. Make sure to properly take care of all onboard cooking and refrigeration equipment.

