

Women Calling More of the Shots on Repairs

Not only are women becoming more influential in choosing which type of car to buy, they are now taking making more of the maintenance and repair decisions – traditionally made by the male population.

A recent study by the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association showed that nearly 9 out of 10 female motorists are somewhat involved in the decision-making process for their household's vehicle maintenance and repair. Some industry experts say that close to 80 percent of the drivers taking cars in for service and repair are women.

“With more and more women involved in car care, it's important that they are aware of various vehicle safety features,” said Steve Zweig, director PPG Glass Alliance Program, including PPG PROSTARS, an alliance of independent and professional auto glass technicians, “such as the windshield.”

The windshield is a critical part of the vehicle's safety system. In the event of an accident, it enables to vehicle's airbags to properly function. Comprised of two pieces of glass and bonded together by a vinyl inter-layer. When broken, the glass will generally adhere to the plastic lining. This type of glass is typically referred to as laminated.

“As an integral part of the vehicle structure, proper repair or replacement of the windshield by an experienced and qualified technician is extremely important,” said Zweig. “Whether it's a repair or a replacement, the windshield is comprised of various components and parts, so it's critical that proper products and procedures are used and followed.”

Zweig advises all car owners to make sure they select or request an auto glass technician who is experienced and qualified; one that follows the proper installation steps (see side bar) before, during and after any windshield work has been performed.

PPG PROSTARS is a nationwide alliance of independent professional auto glass technicians who back their work with a national warranty. To learn more about safe, quality, professional auto glass repair and replacement, or to find a PPG PROSTARS glass shop retailer near you, visit www.ppgprostars.com or call 1-866-2-THEPRO.

Six Basic Steps to Proper Windshield Installation

Pre-work includes pre-inspection and protecting vulnerable areas of the vehicle from damage during the replacement.

Parts and glass removal includes removal of moldings, wipers, cowl and trim. To save time, glass installers may bend the cowl back rather than remove it. This could result in a poor set of the new windshield. Be sure your auto glass technician removes the existing cowl from your windshield.

Pinchweld preparation includes trimming the old urethane evenly to 1/16 of an inch. This ensures a quality fit and bond of the new windshield.

Proper urethane application requires selection and use of primers and urethane systems that fit the existing weather conditions, and the time that the vehicle will be out of operation. Choose a glass shop that can provide with documentation of training that their technicians have received in urethane adhesive and auto glass replacement.

Glass and parts replacement – especially on larger windshields – can sometimes require two technicians to ensure the windshield is set properly. There is no room for error when setting the windshield. Poor initial placement leads to compromises in installation quality. Once the windshield is set in place, the unit should be leveled and centered. Your technician should then check the windshield for leaks, reset the trim molding and reinstall the wipers, cowl and any other devices detached or removed during the glass removal.

Post-work includes cleaning and inspecting the vehicle for stray pieces of glass and part debris and providing clear instructions on safe drive-away time to the car owner. Different adhesive systems have significantly different cure time characteristics. It is a good idea to ask ahead of time how long the vehicle must remain out of operation.



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