

Squeaks, Rattles, and Leaks

If the ride I'm driving has any squeaks, rattles or leaks it is completely unacceptable to me and something must be done immediately to fix the issues at hand. Some people don't care; they don't mind putting more oil in their car than gasoline if it has some severe leaks. ☺ When you have an automotive problem, it is typically evident if you're doing the proper job of maintaining your ride. If something is loose, it'll squeak, rub, vibrate and/or rattle. Those squeaks and rattles drive me crazy. I'm told its a very short drive from where I am to crazy but a drive nonetheless. When the tires become out of balance and you're driving down the road at a certain speed the vibration created throughout the car is enough to rattle your fillings loose. The same issue can come about when the brake rotors are warped and when you brake, an evil vibration emerges. My neighbor's selective hearing cannot detect metal rubbing on metal when his brake pads are worn away. Not only should he have heard the warning screeches when the change indicators began to rub, he kept on driving until the pad was completely vaporized! He's clearly not doing a good job at regular maintenance, or any maintenance at all, but most normal well adjusted people can hear when something is wrong with the car. Some people are hyper sensitive to issues and can hear when the tire tread is getting low and the ride needs new sneakers. In either event, there is an obvious sign something is wrong and needs to be addressed. When you park your car overnight, does it leave a stain where some fluid is leaking out? The fluid shouldn't leak out! If there are a plethora of small stains on your driveway or garage floor, then something is leaking and should be addressed. Putting a piece of plywood on the garage floor to absorb the leaks is not a solution, it's masking the real problem. Sometimes with newer cars if an issue presents itself the idiot light on the dashboard will turn on. Most of us don't continue to drive while it's on, we get it fixed. Others view the idiot light as decorations, like Christmas lights! ☺ If you don't address the issue at a certain point your car just won't run anymore and you'll be out of luck and without a ride, then you'll be forced to address the issue.

Your financial life needs regular maintenance just like your ride does. In the world of finance when trouble arises, it's typically not evident and people don't even know problems exist. They carry on their marry way because no problems are obvious and painful. People don't do things that are financially wrong because they know about them, they do these things because they are unaware of them or because they believe what they are doing will help to improve their outcomes, even if it may in fact hurt them. Your finances don't make any noise, shake, rattle or vibrate and there is no idiot light on your dashboard and it's difficult to determine what things you'll be faced with later in life. If you develop a financial plan, taking a look at where you are today and setting future goals, you can track your progress towards those goals annually. This will allow you to see your progress through the financial journey of life. You'll know each year if you're on track, behind track or ahead of track. I hope you're ahead of where you need to be. Be sure to have a financial plan and keep score of your progress or you won't know where you stand or if something is squeaking, rattling or leaking! Mike Chadwick can be reached at (860) 489 8880 or mike@fiscalwisdom.com.

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