

# Some quiet alternatives to audible car alarms

BY TIM BLANGGER  
The Allentown Morning Call

Here are alternatives for audible car alarms:

**Kill switch:** Perhaps the least expensive option, the switch, when activated, cuts off power from the battery to the rest of the car, making it all but impossible to start. Although the cost of a switch often is under \$5, installation can be somewhat expensive, depending on the make and model of the car. Security experts suggest hiding the actual switch and adding a second, dummy switch to further confuse the car thief. The switch won't prevent thieves from damaging your ignition, which is typically how thieves take cars, but it

## MAINTENANCE

Prevention key to vehicle longevity

◀Continued from Page 8

Kinney and Redmond say that you should make an appointment with a shop for a general safety check for the car each year, much like you would a physical for your health. Problems arise and are complicated by forgetting about the basics — which can result in greater costs later.

As for spotting car trouble, obvious points are any kind of light indicator, significant noise or any sign of smoke, and difficulty in maneuvering. Most drivers become familiar with how their cars operate over time, and with prevention and maintenance, it's become more common to have cars last long past the 100,000-mile point.

"People are a lot more educated these days — don't be afraid to get out your owner's manual and read through it," concluded Redmond.

"There's a lot you can do yourself and what you can't, you can get help with. Take care of little things early before they get to be bigger later."

will help guarantee your car is there in the morning. The only drawback is that the car's owner has to remember to engage the switch when leaving the car.

**Beeper-based systems:** This system is either an add-on to an existing, audible alarm, or a stand-alone device that beeps the car's owner when someone tampers with a door, trunk, hood, window or ignition. Besides notifying the car's owner directly of possible problems, these systems don't annoy the rest of the

neighborhood. A beeper system is more costly than a switch. CrimeStopper's CM2500 system costs \$130 and uses an FM beeper.

**Additional locks:** Devices are available to lock important parts of the auto, such as the gear shift, emergency brake, floor brake and other important devices, which prevent a thief who has broken into your car from driving it away easily. These devices are usually easy to install and cost \$30 to \$50.

Exhaust • Brakes  
Shocks • Struts  
Oil Change  
General Maintenance  
And a Whole Lot More!



**Right Service. Right Price.**

**Traverse City**  
725 South Garfield  
**231/929-3892**  
(Between Hannah and Centre)

**FREE Undercar Inspection & Estimate**

Ask About The Meineke Credit Card



**Nationwide Lifetime Guarantees**



Visit [www.meineke.com](http://www.meineke.com) for more valuable coupon offers.

OPEN MON - SAT 8 AM TO 6 PM

**\$29.95**

Lifetime Brake Pads & Shoes

Per Axle • In-Stock Parts Only  
Additional parts & service, including installation, is extra.  
Excludes ceramic pads. Additional shop supply fees may apply.  
Offer valid on most cars & light trucks. See dealer for details.



**\$5 OFF \$10 OFF**

Any Service Over \$50    Any Service Over \$100

**\$15 OFF \$20 OFF**

Any Service Over \$150    Any Service Over \$200

Discount applies to regular retail pricing.  
Not valid on the sale of tires and batteries.  
One Coupon Per Vehicle



**\$69.95**

Pre-Winter Check-Up Special

**\$90 Value**

Includes: Oil Change, Radiator Flush, Electrical System Test.  
Plus inspection of: Brakes, Belts, Hoses, Front End, Shocks & Struts, Tires, All Fluids, Lights, Wipers, CV Axles.  
One Coupon Per Vehicle



**\$59.95**

Transmission Flush

Most Cars  
Flush transmission and refill with new fluid.  
Additional parts & service may be needed at extra cost.  
Additional shop charges may apply.



Expires 11-15-03 at Traverse City location. Not valid with any other offer or warranty work. Must present coupon at time of estimate.

Expires 11-15-03 at Traverse City location. Not valid with any other offer or warranty work. Must present coupon at time of estimate.

Expires 11-15-03 at Traverse City location. Not valid with any other offer or warranty work. Must present coupon at time of estimate.

Expires 11-15-03 at Traverse City location. Not valid with any other offer or warranty work. Must present coupon at time of estimate.

## Driving safety tips

Recommended safe driving tips include the following:

- Keep eyes constantly moving and avoid hypnotic staring.
- Regularly check your rear view and side mirrors.
- Do what you can to minimize distractions, such as pulling over to the side of the road to make a cell phone call.
- Leave yourself an out by trying to place your vehicle where your safety is not determined by other drivers.
- Don't presume you know what another driver is doing.
- Use headlights appropriately to insure that other drivers can see you.
- Avoid driving when you are tired or distracted, and never after having consumed any alcohol.
- Always buckle up and obey speed limits.
- Be aware of weather conditions and drive accordingly.

— AAA of Michigan

**GET YOUR WINTER INSPECTION BEFORE THE COLD SETS IN!**

**TRAVERSE CITY TRANSMISSION**

This owner has 27 years of hands on experience



**"THE HOMETOWN NAME WITH THE NATIONWIDE WARRANTY"**

**WE GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST QUALITY PARTS & SERVICE IN THE BUSINESS**

**WE CARE!**

**DOING YOUR OWN CLUTCH? WE RESURFACE FLYWHEELS**

REPAIRS ON:

- Plow Trucks
- 5th wheel
- Campers
- Suburbans
- Dually P.U.
- Fleet Accounts/Fast Service
- Transfer Cases
- Axle Bearings
- Differentials
- Clutches
- Brakes

**ALSO**

**TOWING AVAILABLE**  
FREE ROAD TESTS & HOIST CHECKS



Monday-Friday 8 am - 6 pm • Saturday 9 am - 2 pm

**943-5300**

TOLL FREE  
**1-877-866-9336**

[www.traverscitytransmission.com](http://www.traverscitytransmission.com)  
889 E. SILVER LAKE RD. • TRAVERSE CITY

