# THUNDERBIRD

1972 owners manual

# Welcome

We welcome you to the growing group of discerning people who own and drive Ford-built vehicles. The Ford Motor Companies—U.S. and Canada—take great pride in the long tradition of quality products and superior values that the Ford name represents. You will notice that we have sought to anticipate your needs and desires with respect to safety, convenience, styling and engineering. We hope you enjoy your new Thunderbird and wish you many thousands of miles of pleasant and carefree driving.



Ford Marketing Corporation
Ford Customer Service Division
P.O. Box 1805, Dearborn, Michigan 48121



Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited The Canadian Road, Oakville, Ontario



**Ford Motor Company** 

Overseas Distribution Operations P.O. Box 600, Wixom, Michigan 48096 U.S.A.

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# Warranties

The Warranties covering this vehicle are stated in detail in the Warranty Facts Booklet and Emissions Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules Booklet. These booklets are in the glove compartment. Please read them carefully. They state in precise terms everything that is covered by these Warranties.

# Identification

The official Vehicle Identification Number for title and registration purposes is stamped on a metallic tag that is fastened to the instrument panel close to the windshield on the driver's side and is visible from outside of the car.

This number and other important identifying information are shown on the Vehicle Certification Label which is attached to the left door lock pillar. This label is made of a special material and tampering, alteration or removal will result in its destruction or the appearance of the word VOID.

If for any reason you find it necessary to correspond with Ford, please include your 11 digit vehicle identification number.

#### How To Use Your 1972

#### Thunderbird Owner's Manual

This 1972 Owner's Manual will help you get more driving pleasure from your new Thunderbird. For ease of reference, the Manual has been sectionalized to group related information together in a quick-to-locate form. You'll find the answers to the most commonly asked questions about your Thunderbird in the "Question and Answer" section starting on Page 2. The detailed index on Pages 55 and 56 helps you quickly find answers to specific questions. To make sure you're familiar with all operating features, there is an illustrated guide to controls and instruments in the section "Getting To Know Your 1972 Thunderbird", beginning on Page 22.

For additional information, contact your dealer, or order a manual with the order form on Page 51 or 52.

#### Contents

Questions and Answers About Your 1972 Thunderbird            Advice for Motoring Pleasure            Day-To-Day Care            Driving Tips            Special Situations            Trouble Diagnosis
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# Questions and Answers About Your 1972 Thunderbird

To give you a quick introduction to your 1972 Thunderbird, the most commonly asked questions are answered on Pages 2 thru 6. For more detailed answers, consult the index on Pages 55 and 56; then turn to the appropriate page(s) in the manual.

#### **About Daily Operation**

- Q. Are there any "break-in" precautions for my
- A. Your new car will not require an extensive "break-in", although as a matter of prudence, most owners avoid extended high speed operation for the first 1000 miles. Constant-speed operation should also be avoided, as parts tend to better adjust themselves to other parts if various speeds are used during the first 1000 miles. Also, it is a good policy not to make severe brake applications until after 100 miles of in-city or 1000 miles of highway operation, to allow the brake shoes to "seat"

against the brake drums.

New cars should be operated for 500 miles before trailer towing. However, if necessary to tow during this break-in avoid exceeding 50 MPH and fast starts.

A break-in oil is not used. The oil in the engine crankcase is the same specified type as you will use in regular changes. Change the oil and replace the filter at the regular time or mileage interval given on the maintenance schedules.

Addition of anti-friction compounds or special "break-in" oils is not recommended during the first few thousand miles of operation, since these additives prevent piston ring seating.

Q. What grade of gasoline should I use?

- A. A regular grade of fuel with an octane rating of at least 91 may be used. See Page 9 for full explanation.
- Q. What is the gas tank capacity of 1972 Thunderbirds?
- A. The approximate gas tank capacity is 22.5 gallons (18.7 Imperial gallons.)
- O. What is the engine oil capacity?
- A. Thunderbird engines require five quarts of oil

including oil filter. (4.2 Imperial quarts.)
Q. How often should the motor oil and filter be

changed?

A. The motor oil and oil filter must be changed regularly every 6 months or 6000 miles, whichever comes first, except under unique operating conditions described in the Emission Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules Booklet.

- Q. When should I have the battery fluid level checked?
- A. About once a month—and more frequently during hot, dry weather. The fluid level should be at the ring at the bottom of the filler well.
- Q. What is the correct tire pressure for the tires?
- A. This varies with the car usage and type of tire. The information can be found on the tire chart on the right door lock face pillar. For special conditions refer to pages 12 and 13.
- Q. How do I know when the tires need to be replaced?
- A. When the tread wear indicator appears as a solid band across the tread, the tire should be replaced. See illustration on Page 13.

# **About Driving**

- Q. Will pushing with another car start a Thunderbird?
- A. No, you should use jumper cables from a booster battery or from the battery of another car. Connect the batteries properly. See emergency starting tips on Page 17.
- Q. How do I start my 1972 Thunderbird in normal weather? In cold weather?
- A. Tips for starting the engine under different circumstances are given on Page 9.
- Q. How does the optional speed control operate?
   A. When you set the speed control between 30 and 80 mph, it takes over the operation of
  - and 80 mph, it takes over the operation of the accelerator and holds the car at your selected speed. For details see Page 25.

# **About Cold Weather Driving**

- Q. Does my 1972 Thunderbird have antifreeze protection?
- A. Yes. Your new Thunderbird has antifreeze protection to  $-20^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$  (except in Canada and Alaska  $-35^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$ ), unless there has been a loss of coolant through leakage or overheating. If the coolant level is low, add Ford Permanent Antifreeze and water as recommended on Page 11.
- Q. Is it desirable to let the car warm up after starting in cold weather?
- A. Yes. After you start your engine according to the instructions on Page 9, let it run a few minutes before driving away. This gives the engine and transmission lubricants time to circulate to all moving parts.

CAUTION: when you drive away, take it easy at first because the lubricants in the transmission and axle are cold and need time to circulate while the car begins moving.

- Q. What should I do if my door lock freezes? How can I prevent this?
- A. Heat the key with a match, then thaw out the lock with the heated key. Protect your door locks against freezing by applying Ford Lock Lubricant at regular intervals.

## About the Dashboard

- Q. How do I set the pushbuttons on the radio (optional)?
- A. Pull out the button to be set. Tune in the desired station with the manual tuning knob. Push the button all the way in, then release it. Repeat this procedure for the remaining buttons. If you have an AM/FM radio, set the slide bar control to either AM or FM, then set buttons as above. Each button can be tuned to an AM and an FM station. (See page 38.)
- Q. How high should the radio antenna be set for best reception?
- A. Extend the power antenna (optional) to the maximum up position for best reception. Be sure to lower the antenna before entering an automatic car wash.

- Q. Is there an illustration of the instrument panel in this manual?
- A. Yes, on pages 22 and 23, with instructions on how to operate each control.
- O. What is the hazard warning switch?
- A. The hazard warning switch, when operated, causes the rear taillights and front parking lights to blink on and off. This switch should be employed whenever you must stop in an unexpected place on the road. It is located on the underside of the steering column beneath the ignition switch. Pull out to operate. See page 22.
- O. How do I set the clock?
- A. To set, pull knob all the way out. Turn knob clockwise to advance the hands, counter-clockwise to turn back the hands. These corrections automatically adjust the time-keeping of the clock. If they are made once a day for several days, your clock will be adjusted to keep accurate time.

- Q. Where is the windshield wiper/washer reservoir?
- A. It is the plastic bottle located on the left side of the engine compartment. NOTE-On vehicles with a constant-full radiator system another plastic bottle in the same area is connected to the radiator by hoses.
- Q. How do I operate the windshield wiper/washer?
- A. Turn the windshield wiper/washer switch clockwise to the first detent for low speed, second detent for high speed. Press switch to operate washers (this also turns wipers automatically to low speed). See illustration on Page 22.
- Q. How do I operate the ventilation, heater, and/or air conditioning controls?
- A. Instructions are on Pages 26, 27 and 28.

#### **About the Interior**

- Q. How do I adjust the position of the front seat?
- A. Complete instructions are on page 29.
- Q. How do I fasten the seat belts?
- A. See illustrations and instructions on Pages 32 thru 34. Be sure all occupants fasten their seat and shoulder belts before you drive away.
- Q. How can I lock the doors without using a key?
- A. Push the inside door lock button down and close door. You don't have to do anything else, so be careful you don't lock your keys inside.
- Q. How do I operate the parking brake?
- A. The parking brake is applied by pressing a foot pedal to the left of the service brake. To release, start the engine and move the gearshift selector lever out of the PARK or NEUTRAL position, brake releases automatically. For manual release see Page

- 31. For easier application of parking brake, apply foot pressure on service brake pedal.
- Q. How do I adjust my optional tilt steering wheel?
- A. To change the steering wheel position, press turn signal lever toward the dashboard and tilt wheel to desired position. When changing tilt while car is in motion, hold wheel firmly at top or bottom.
- O. Where are the electrical fuses?
- A. The fuse panel is on the toeboard between the parking brake and the steering column. Page 43 shows a picture and a fuse chart.
- Q. What kind of bulbs are required for the headlights?
- A. Light bulb descriptions for all car lights are given on Page 44.

#### About the Exterior

- Q. Where is the hood lock release lever? How does it work?
- A. The hood lock release lever is at the center and top of the grille. Move the lever to the right and raise the hood. See illustration on Page 31.
- Q. How is the optional sunroof operated?
- A. There are several "do's" and "don'ts". See illustration and instructions on Page 35.

#### **About Maintenance**

- Q. How do I change a wheel?
- A. Begin by setting the parking brake and placing a block against the wheel diagonally opposite the wheel to be changed. You'll find more information on Page 20. Use the HAZARD WARNING lights!
- O. Can I tow a trailer?
- A. Light trailers (up to 2,000 lbs. loaded weight) require little more than a good non-equalizing trailer hitch and necessary trailer lights wiring. Above this, you should check the need for the optional Trailer Towing Package. Check trailer towing cautions and load instructions on Pages 12 and 13.
- Q. How frequently are maintenance services required? What services?
- A. Some maintenance services should be performed every 6000 miles or every 6 months, whichever comes first. For recommended

intervals on maintenance services, refer to the vehicle maintenance schedule on Page 41 and to the emission systems maintenance schedule in the Emissions Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules booklet.

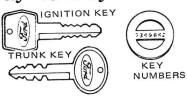
- Q. If I have a maintenance problem with my Thunderbird that a dealer cannot solve, what should I do?
- A. Should you have a problem your dealer cannot solve, the Ford Customer Service District Office nearest you will be happy to help. A complete list is on Pages 45, 46 and 47.
- Q. What accessories are available from my Ford dealer?
- A. A complete list is on Page 49.
- Q. Can I perform scheduled maintenance services myself?
- A. Yes, if you have a reasonable amount of mechanical ability. Most scheduled

maintenance services are quite simple. To assist amateur mechanics, shop manuals are available to Thunderbird owners. See Pages 51 and 52 for complete details.

- Q. How can I obtain a list of engine specifications?
- A. These are provided in the Emissions Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules booklet.
- Q. Is the cost of maintenance services covered by the warranty?
- A. You will be charged for all maintenance services no matter when they are performed. The only exceptions to this are the "Special Break-In Period Adjustments and Services specifically listed in the Warranty Facts Booklet.

# ADVICE FOR MOTORING PLEASURE

# Day-to-Day Care



# Before Turning the Key

Record your key numbers. They enable your Ford or Ford of Canada dealer or a locksmith to replace lost keys.

# Ignition, Key Lock

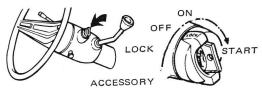
The key-locking ignition switch is mechanically connected to the steering wheel lock and to the transmission shifter lock. When the key is removed, the ignition switch, steering wheel and transmission controls are locked.

CAUTION: Do not attempt to shift out of Park with ignition in Lock or Accessory position.

#### Unlocking

To unlock the ignition switch, insert the key in the lock and turn it to the *Off* position. Ignition switch may then be turned to *On* position. The key cannot be turned to *Start* unless the transmission selector is in either *Park* or *Neutral*. Before ignition switch can be turned to ACC (Accessory) position, the transmission selector must be in *Park*.

CAUTION: Never reach through the steering wheel to release your ignition and steering lock.



#### Locking

To lock the ignition switch, the transmission selector lever must be in P(Park). Turn key to lock and remove.

## Key Removal Warning

A warning buzzer sounds when key is in the switch and driver's door is open. This warns driver against leaving key in an unattended car. To shut off buzzer, key must be turned to *Lock* and removed.

#### Combat Car Theft

Always remove ignition key and lock all doors when leaving car unattended.

# **Engine Starting**

Shift lever must be in P (Park) or N (Neutral) before key switch can be turned to *Start*.

If engine stalls or falters in starting, wait 3 or 4 seconds before re-engaging starter, otherwise the starter may be damaged.

#### Engine Cold

- ★ First, turn key to "On" position.
- ★ Press accelerator pedal slowly to the floor.
- \*Release pedal completely.
- ★Turn key to "Start" until engine is started; then release key.

If engine fails to start—repeat procedures. After starting engine, allow it to run for a short time; then depress the pedal slightly and release it to reduce engine speed.

NOTE: If air temperature is below +10°F, or vehicle has been idle for several days, depress accelerator two or three times before starting.

#### Engine Hot

- ★Turn key to "On" position.
- ★ Press accelerator pedal 1/4 to 1/2 way down and hold. (CAUTION: Do not pump pedal.)
- ★Turn key to "Start" until engine is started; then release key.

#### Engine Flooded

If engine fails to start using above procedures—Press the pedal all the way to the floor and hold.

★Turn key to "Start."

Release the key when engine starts, and release pedal gradually as engine speeds up.

#### **Fuels and Lubricants**

Use the Right Gasoline

All 1972 engines are designed to operate on "regular" gasolines with an octane rating of at least 91\* when engine is adjusted to factory recommended specifications.

To obtain best performance with these fuels, it is important to have the maintenance services performed at the recommended intervals.

If you plan to drive your car outside the United States or Canada, check into the quality of gasoline available in the area you expect to visit.

# Use the Right Motor Oil

OIL QUALITY. In order to properly protect your engine, you should use only Ford oil or motor oils marked on the container as meeting the newly released S.A.E. Classification SE or Ford Specification 101-C. Oils meeting these specifications have been formulated to keep the emission control systems operating at peak efficiency and inhibit the formation of corrosive acids generated in all gasoline burning engines.

<sup>\*</sup>Octane as rated by the Research Method.

OIL VISCOSITY. When you change or add oil, you should select oil with the proper specifications and with the viscosity, selected from the table following, which most closely matches temperature range you expect to encounter for the next 6 months or 6,000 miles.

ENGINE OIL LEVEL. Check oil level frequently. Oil level must be maintained between Add and Safe Marks.

It is normal to add some oil between 6,000 mile oil changes. The amount added will vary with severity of operations.

MULTI-VISCOSITY OILS

When Outside Temperature is Consistently	Use SAE Viscosity Number
Below +32°F -10°F to +90°F	5W-30* 10W-30
-10 <sup>o</sup> F, to +90 <sup>o</sup> F (or above) Above +10 <sup>o</sup> F	10W-40 20W-40

SINGLE	VISCOSITY	OILS

-10°F to +32°F +10°F to +60°F	10W 20W-20	
+32°F to +90°F	30	
Above 60°E	40	

<sup>\*</sup>Where sustained driving and/or high speed operation above 60 mph is anticipated, use the next heavier viscosity oil.

## Changing Oil and Filter

For most drivers, motor oil and filter must be changed every 6,000 miles or every 6 months whichever comes first. Under normal driving conditions, you do not need to change more often if you use oil and filters of the recommended quality.

Oil and filter should be changed every 3,000 miles or every 3 months if your car operation includes: (1) extended periods of idling or low-speed operation such as police, taxi or door-to-door delivery service; (2) towing trailers over 2,000 lbs. loaded weight for long distances; (3) when outside temperature stays below plus 10 degrees F for 60 days or more and most trips are less than 10 miles.

No break-in oil change is required. See Page 53 for the oil capacity of your engine.

# Use the Right Oil Filter

Proper oil filtration is just as essential as us of good motor oil. Use only an Autolite or Motor craft oil filter or one of equal quality which meets Ford specifications (Page 50).

#### Transmission Fluid

For satisfactory operation of your automatic transmission, it is important to use only For Automatic Transmission fluid or fluids meeting Ford Specification M2C33F (Type F).

# Avoid Mixing Lubricants

In some cases, different brands of lubrican and oils are not compatible and deteriorate whe mixed. It is best to use the same brand, such a Ford oils and lubricant at successive maintenance intervals to assure compatibility.

#### Car Care

Make sure your car is ready to go whenever you need it. Here are some suggestions to keep your car well cared for:

★ Keep the gas tank filled. A full tank reduces the possibility of condensation forming in the tank and freezing in the fuel lines.

★ Make frequent checks of the engine oil level.
★ A new oil filter at each oil change is one of

the best investments you can make.

\* Check the coolant.

★ Check the battery fluid level often, especially if your car is being driven in a warm, dry climate. ★ Check the windshield washer reservoir fluid level. If the fluid level is low, add water with recommended proportion of windshield washer solvent, such as Ford Ultra-Clear, or use premixed water and solvent.

★ Visually inspect the tires daily and have the air pressure checked regularly. Tire pressure lower or higher than recommended will reduce tire life, and affect vehicle handling.

★ Tire pressure will usually increase after driving

at high speeds or operation with heavy loads. Thus, the pressure should be adjusted when tires are at or near normal temperatures (72°F.). See pages 12 and 13 for other information.

Car Cleaning

★ Wash your car often and thoroughly with warm or cold water. If the car is very dirty, wash it with a mild detergent. We recommend Ford All-Purpose cleaner for this task. Do not wipe paint surfaces with a dry cloth. It could produce scratches.

★ Dust and loose dirt should be removed from the upholstery, trim and floor covering frequently, using a whisk broom or auto vacuum. Vinyl or leather surfaces can be cleaned with leather and vinyl upholstery cleaner or with Ford Triple Clean. Use a mild foam detergent for cleaning cloth fabrics, following the instructions provided with the container.

★ Outside rear view mirrors are best cleaned with a soft cloth and mild detergent solution. Avoid wiping with a dry cloth and use scrapers as seldom and as gently as possible. Otherwise, damage to the reflective surface may result.

Engine Coolant

To refill cooling system, refer to Page 53 for proper fill procedure to assure removal of air. Fill crossflow radiators to *Cold Fill* mark.

The cooling system is filled with Ford Permanent Antifreeze and water to prevent corrosion and to provide protection against freezing (approximately -20°F.) [2] and boiling.

[2] -350 for Canada and Alaska delivery.

You should keep the freeze protection at an adequate level for the temperatures which may occur in the area in which your car will be operated. We strongly recommend that the freeze protection level be maintained at least to  ${}^{0}$ F. to provide adequate corrosion and boiling protection. Do not use methanol or alcohol base antifreeze. Use a permanent antifreeze, such as Ford Permanent Antifreeze, with water.

CAUTION: Avoid injury when checking a hot engine. Muffle the radiator cap in a thick cloth and turn it slowly counterclockwise to the stop (until the pressure starts to escape). After the pressure has completely dissipated, depress and rotate the cap to remove it.

#### Tires and Tire Care

Original Equipment Tires

The tires for your new car were selected to provide the best combination of reliability, traction, weight-carrying ability, stability at high speeds, tread life, and riding comfort. To obtain this balance of performance and for your safety it is essential that you always maintain inflation pressures and stay within the load limits and weight distribution recommendations for your car.

Tire Inflation Pressures and Limits

Refer to the tire chart, incorporated here by reference, attached to the right door lock face pillar for inflation pressures and load limits of standard and approved optional tires for speeds at and below 75 mph.

Each tire has its size and maximum inflation pressure (psi) molded on the outer side-wall. Increasing pressures (up to maximum permissible pressures) can improve fuel economy but will decrease riding comfort and, possibly, tread wear.

NOTE: For reliable Vehicle Control, Always 12

Maintain the Specified Difference Between Front and Rear Tire Pressures.

To Figure Your Load

Add the actual weight of the driver, passengers, and luggage and tongue load if a trailer is to be towed (see Trailer Towing). This total must never exceed the Full Rated (Maximum) load shown in the chart. Within this limit, up to 100 lbs. of extra baggage may be carried in place of each passenger not carried in the rear seat. Never exceed occupant distribution and maximum vehicle loading as shown on the tire chart. If you added equipment to your car after delivery, include its weight in figuring your load.

High Speed Driving

If you drive at sustained speeds over 70 mph for one hour or more, increase the cold inflation pressure shown on the chart by 4 psi, but do not exceed the maximum inflation pressure shown on the tires. If tire pressures cannot be adjusted within these limits, it is recommended in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards that the car not be driven over 75 mph.

Sustained speeds over 90 mph require us special, high-speed-capability tires.

Use of Snow Tires

Snow tires require a 4 psi (cold) increase the rear tire pressure (only) shown on the chart. Do not exceed the maximum inflat pressure shown on the tires. If the increase pressure would exceed the maximum, use next larger optional tire size shown on the classe "Trailer Towing" and "High Speed Driv for pressure adjustments recommended for the conditions.

Tire Care

Check tire pressures frequently. The "copressure (after car has been parked one has should be as specified on the tire chart or for special conditions shown above. It is normal a "warm" tire to exceed the specified "copressure. Do not let air out of "warm" tire adjust pressure. Inspect tires frequently for cobruises, or sharp objects embedded in the transport of the specified in the specified i

Trailer Towing and Loading

To pull a trailer it is important to have the proper equipment and to follow vehicle and trailer loading recommendations. New cars should be operated for 500 miles before trailer towing. However, if necessary to tow during this break-in avoid exceeding 50 MPH and full throttle starts.

Use a good non-equalizing hitch for trailers under 2000 lbs. gross loaded weight. Equip your vehicle and trailer with lights conforming to federal and local regulations. See your authorized Ford or Lincoln-Mercury dealer for trailer hitches made for your car.

CAUTION: Bumper hitches are not recommended. However, multi clamp type rental installations may be made if in accordance with proper installation, usage and towing instructions of a reputable trailer agency. Single clamp bumper hitches are not acceptable.

The trailer load should be distributed so the tongue load weight is approximately 10 percent of the total loaded trailer weight. For the tires listed on the tire chart, trailer tongue loads up to 100 lbs.\* are permissible\*\* providing the rear tire pressure is increased by 4 psi over that shown on the tire chart. Do not exceed the maximum inflation pressure shown on the tires.

Do not guess at trailer weights. Weigh the loaded trailer on a scale to obtain total weight and tongue load weight.

- \* See a reliable trailer dealer for special equipment required with heavier tongue loads.
- \*\* Vehicle speed must not exceed local regulations or 75 mph.

TIRE REPLACEMENT—When a tread wear indicator appears as a solid band across the tread, it means that the tire should be replaced.



When replacing tires of wheels, it is MANDATORY to use only the standard or optional tire sizes and types recommended on the tire chart attached to your vehicle.

Wheel rim widths and offsets must be those recommended by the car manufacturer for that tire size.

Tires and wheels other than those recommended above can adversely affect the safety and durability of your vehicle; and, therefore, MUST NOT BE USED.

All tires and wheels on the vehicle should be of the same size, type, and load carrying capacity. Never mix radial, belted, and/or conventional-type tires.

Snow tires should be of size and type equivalent to the other tires on the vehicle as recommended above.

Tires larger or smaller than originally installed may affect the accuracy of the speedometer. Consult your dealer about the need to change speedometer drive gears.

# **Driving Tips**

**Emission Systems** 

Other important features include emission control systems which are integral parts of all vehicles and which are designed to combat air pollution. In addition to the crankcase and exhaust controls installed on all passenger cars, 1972 models include evaporative emission controls. Consult the Emissions Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules Booklet for details of required maintenance of emission control systems. These maintenance procedures are critical to insure the proper functioning of these systems and to keep the emissions warranty in effect.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any modification of the emission control systems is subject to the penalties of Federal law (U.S.A.) if made prior to the first sale and registration, and is subject to penalties under the laws of some states, if made thereafter. Further, Federal law prohibits vehicle manufacturers or dealers from knowingly removing or rendering an emission control system inoperative after sale and delivery to an ultimate purchaser.

In Canada any modification of the emission control systems is subject to applicable penalties prescribed by Federal or Provincial laws.

# Ford Motor Company's Lifeguard Safety Features Are Designed for Your Protection

There are many safety features which are "built-in" your new car — they won't be visible nor do they need operating instructions. For instance, your Ford-built car is equipped with an energy absorbing steering wheel and column as well as an energy absorbing instrument panel.

Don't forget, though, that one of the most important safety factors in auto transportation today is you, the driver. Learn to use your safety equipment, and keep the following points in mind:

★ Adjust Head Restraints so that the occupant's head centers on the restraint.

- ★ Be sure all occupants fasten their seat and shoulder belts before you drive away.
- ★ Make sure all doors are locked before you drive away.
  ★ Set your parking brake every time you leav
- the car. Put transmission in Park. Removignition key and lock all doors before leaving the car unattended.
- ★ Use both rear-view mirrors and your tur signal before you move from one traffic lane t another.
- ★ Keep tires inflated to Recommende Pressures and replace tires when the tread we indicators appear (page 13).
- ★ Always use your hazard warning flasher who you must stop in any unusual place on the roam
- ★ Drive Defensively. The driver of that oth vehicle can make a mistake.

# Driving With an Automatic Transmission

# P R N D 2 1

ENGINE STARTING—Use "P" Park position for engine starting and engine idling (except normal driving). Shift into "R" (reverse) or "D" (drive) to move car.

NOTE: Do not attempt to shift out of PARK with the ignition in LOCK position.

"P" PARK—The "P" position locks the rear wheels and transmission even with the engine running. To prevent damage to transmission, fully stop the car before shifting into "P". Whenever the car is parked be sure the selector lever is in "P" position.

"R" REVERSE—Car must be fully stopped before shifting into or out of reverse.

"N" NEUTRAL-In the "N" position, there is neither forward nor reverse gear engagement. "N" may be used for engine starting with brakes applied.

"D" NORMAL DRIVE POSITION—Car starts in low and shifts automatically to second and high.

"2" SECOND GEAR MANUAL-For slippery surfaces, traffic braking, or steep descents. Car starts and remains in second. Do not shift into "2" at speeds above 70 mph.

"1" LOW GEAR MANUAL—Car starts and remains in low gear for sustained pulling power or braking on hilly roads. When downshifting, moving selector lever from "D" or "2" to "1" (LOW), the car remains in second gear until the correct vehicle speed (20 to 30 mph) is attained, (depending on tire size and axle ratio) before shifting to LOW gear.

To avoid skidding, do not shift into "1" position above 20 mph on slippery surfaces. Under normal road conditions the transmission can be shifted to "1" at speeds up to 70 mph. ACCELERATOR DOWNSHIFTS-IN DRIVE-At speeds between about 35 and 75 mph, depending upon tire size and axle ratio, you can get the quick power and acceleration needed to pass moving cars or to climb steep grades by flooring the accelerator pedal to downshift from high to second gear. A forced downshift from second or high to first gear is possible in "normal drive" at speeds under 35 mph.

# **Special Situations**

# Driving on Sand, Snow or Ice

A heavy snow creates two kinds of driving problems, and it is helpful to consider each kind separately. Deep, soft snow resists forward motion in a manner similar to loose sand. Hard, packed snow causes the wheel to lose traction on the icy surface. In mud, both momentum and traction may be lost.

When wheels are bogged down in soft material, use second gear (2) to supply the necessary torque. Try to crawl forward slowly but evenly. Should resistance increase to the point where the car begins to stall, shift to (1). Reverse gear, which is still lower, may also be used in this situation for backing out.

If the wheels spin, a different technique is required. Start the car in (2) and then shift to (D). Backing up may be difficult, so concentrate on keeping the car moving forward.

"Rocking" the car works like a pendulum, to swing the car off a particularly slippery spot. Shift rhythmically between reverse (R) and Drive (D) gear while keeping a gentle pressure on the accelerator.

If you are still stuck after a minute or two of rocking, have the car pulled out to avoid overheating and possible damage to the transmission.

CAUTION: Avoid overspeeding the engine and/or excessively spinning the rear wheels.

#### Slippery Roads

Ice, snow or wet surfaces on paved and grave roads (or streets) present hazardous driving conditions. Stopping distances are unpredictable and braking on slippery surfaces can cause skidding. Pumping the brakes rhythmically to gain light brake applications, without locking the wheels, may reduce skidding when stopping of slippery surfaces. Using the transmission (Pag 15) to reduce vehicle speed sometimes helps.

If equipped with the Sure Track bra system, do not pump the brake pedal. T system automatically controls rear wheel bra pressures to minimize skidding.

## To Drive on Slippery Roads

Allow adequate stopping distance between your vehicle and the car or traffic light ahead Avoid quick movements of the steering where Drive at a speed slow enough to permit steering and stopping control of your vehicle.

# **Pushing**

Your Thunderbird cannot be started by pushing. Use a booster battery or jumper cables from the battery of another car.

# **Towing**

Vehicle Inoperative—Make sure the parking brake is released and the transmission is in neutral. It is important to know that the transmission and rear axle are in proper working order before pushing or towing. To move a car with an inoperative transmission or rear axle, it is necessary to raise the rear wheels and tow the vehicle from the rear. If vehicle must be raised, a towing sling and 4x4 block must be used.

NOTE: To tow a vehicle with steering column and transmission locked and no ignition key available, lift vehicle from rear with wheels locked straight. If wheels are locked in a turned position, they MUST BE SUPPORTED with a DOLLY, suitable for towing.

If the car being towed is moving with the rear wheels on the ground, do not exceed 30 mph, or a distance of 15 miles. If this is not possible, it is

advisable to tow the car with the rear wheels raised off the ground.

# **Emergency Starting**

Use of Battery Booster and Jumper Cables—To start a car with a "rundown" battery, hook the jumper cables to the booster battery first. Be sure to connect the positive (+) terminals of the batteries through one cable (usually red) and the negative terminals through the other. Any other procedure will damage the charging system and could result in personal injury caused by electrolyte squirting out the vents. Keep fire away from the top of open battery cells. Combustible gas is always present.

# Trouble Diagnosis

General

Most operating troubles that might be encountered with a new or well maintained car will be of a minor nature. For instance:

Loose battery connections are more likely than battery failure.

A loose ignition wire is more likely than distributor coil or ignition system failure.

No fuel in the tank or foreign material in the fuel tank or line is more likely than fuel pump or carburetor failure.

In many cases, car operating troubles are coupled with other factors, such as climatic conditions, road conditions, change of fueling source, or change of drivers.

Car troubles that occur as a result of normal use and wear usually give plenty of advance warning. Ford's required maintenance services are scheduled to help prevent these troubles.

# If Engine Won't Crank

- 2. Switch on the headlights. If the lights go out when the key is turned to "START", the battery connections may be loose or the battery discharged.
- 3. Another indication of loose battery connections or low battery condition is a stuttering noise from the engine compartment when the ignition switch is turned to start. Check the cable connections to the starter motor, solenoid, and battery.
- 4. Try operating the starter switch several times. Should the switch be corroded, this operation may clean the contacts or make the switch temporarily operable until you can reach your authorized Ford dealer.
- 5. If all the electrical connections are tight and you need assistance to start, read the instructions on Page 19 under Pushing, Towing, and Emergency Starting.

# If Engine Cranks but Won't Start, Check:

- 1. Fuel gauge. You may be out of gas. If the gauge shows fuel in the tank, the trouble may be in the ignition system or the fuel system.
- 2. Ignition System. To check the ignition system, remove the wire from one of the spark plugs, grasp the moulded cap of the wire only, twist it and pull it off the spark plug. Insert a short piece of bare wire or other metal object in the terminal of the wire. Then hold the wire insulation with insulated pliers or a dry cloth so that the bare wire is about 3/16 inch from the engine block, and crank the engine for at least 3 seconds. If there's no spark, the trouble may be in the distributor or coil. If you see a spark, check the fuel system for trouble.
- 3. Choke. The choke linkage may be binding so that the choke plate is not opening and closing properly. Remove the carburetor air cleaner and check the choke plate. If the choke plate is closed, hold the accelerator linkage to open the throttle plates part way, and actuate the choke linkage to locate any binding condition.

#### If Engine Runs Hot

The following items could cause an engine to overheat:

Lack of coolant

Late ignition timing

Dirty cooling system

Prolonged idling, or automatic transmission in DRIVE while stopped with engine and air conditioning operating

Driving with frozen coolant

Sticking thermostat

Overloading the car or pulling heavy trailers during hot weather

#### Engine Noise

It is normal for the oil to leak down from some of the hydraulic tappets in your engine during extended shut-down periods (overnight). As a result, these tappets may be noisy for a few seconds after the engine starts until oil pressure builds up. This momentary start up noise is normal and is not detrimental to engine operation.

#### If Brakes Do Not Grip Well

- 1. If you have been driving through deep water, gently apply the brakes several times as the car is moving slowly.
- 2. Let the brakes cool if you have been using them abnormally, as in mountain driving or after several fast, high-speed stops.
- 3. Check the Brake System Warning Light for indication of hydraulic system leak.
- 4. See Page 31 for brake adjustment instructions. If Car Steers Hard

This can be caused by low air pressure in the tires, by misalignment of the front wheels, or low fluid level in steering assembly.

# If Steering Wanders or Pulls

This condition can be caused by:

Soft tire(s) on any wheel(s)
Wheels out of line or balance
Steering gear preload needs adjusting
Car overloaded or unevenly loaded
High cross-winds
High crown in center of road

#### If Fuses Burn Out

Burned-out fuses usually indicate an electrical short-circuit. Insert a second fuse. If this fuse immediately burns out, and you cannot locate the cause, return your car to your authorized Ford dealer for a circuit check. Fuse locations and sizes are shown on Page 43.

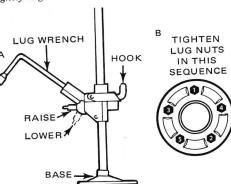
## If Light Bulbs Burn Out

Repeated light burnout usually indicates a loose connection, either at the light socket or the system ground. Return your car to your authorized Ford dealer for inspection.

## If Headlights Flash Off and On

If headlights begin to flash off and on at regular intervals, the system circuit breaker is operating, indicating a short-circuit or overload. Take your car to your authorized Ford dealer for a circuit check.

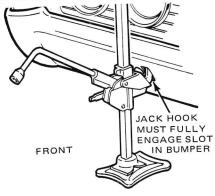
moving vehicles, turn on Hazard Warning Lights. Block the wheel diagonally opposite the wheel to be changed. Assemble the jack (A) and position it as shown for front or rear bumpers. NOTE: Bottom of jack column should be slightly angled in toward car.



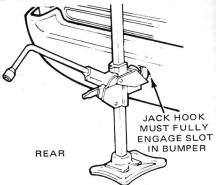
20

jacked up.

Use the jack handle to pry off wheel cover and loosen the wheel lug nuts one-half turn. Raise the car until the wheel clears the ground and remove



the sequence shown (B). Lower the carbon tire just touches the ground. Then, securel tighten lug nuts in same sequence. Lower the carbon tire, jack and handle in the luggage compartment as show on the deck lid decal. Remove wheel block.





# **GETTING TO KNOW**

# YOUR 1972 THUNDERBIRD

Q7.17. Q7. E.

PANEL AIR REGISTERS.

LEFT TURN SIGNAL INDICATOR

BRAKE SYSTEM WARDSNO LIGHT-IN Light about when the brakes are applied in other half of the dual brake system falls, o

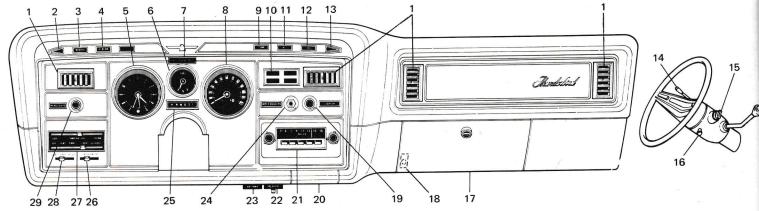
he optional "Sure Track" system is noperative. If this occurs and in your udgement you can safety operate with wo-wheel brakes, proceed at occurs speed

IGHT HIGH BEAM INDICATOR.

To Set Clock - Pali knob out ALD and turn right to advance hands-left ands. It is important to turn knob in

ie comect direction because clock timpskeeping

# **Operating Your Thunderbird**



- 1. PANEL AIR REGISTERS.
- 2. LEFT TURN SIGNAL INDICATOR.
- 3. BRAKE SYSTEM WARNING LIGHT-This light glows when the brakes are applied if either half of the dual brake system fails, or

the optional "Sure Track" system is inoperative. If this occurs and in your judgement you can safely operate with two-wheel brakes, proceed at reduced speed to the nearest service facility for immediate repairs.

- 4. HEADLIGHT HIGH BEAM INDICATOR.
- 5. CLOCK-To Set Clock Pull knob out AL THE WAY and turn right to advance hands-le to retard hands. It is important to turn knob the correct direction because clock timekeeping.

is adjusted automatically whenever hands are reset. Several settings may be needed to obtain completely accurate timekeeping. For best results, reset clock only once a day.

6. FUEL GAUGE

7. FASTEN SEAT BELT LIGHT – Light glows and buzzer sounds to remind driver and front seat passenger (if aboard) to fasten seat belts. Light goes out and buzzer stops when belts are buckled.

8. SPEEDOMETER AND ODOMETER.

9. ENGINE HIGH TEMPERATURE WARNING LIGHT

10. CONVENIENCE LIGHT GROUP (Optional) – Includes Low Fuel Warning, Rear Defroster On Indicator, Door Ajar Warning and Lights-On Reminder Light and Buzzer.

11.ALTERNATOR WARNING LIGHT

12.LOW OIL PRESSURE WARNING LIGHT

13. RIGHT TURN SIGNAL INDICATOR

14.TURN SIGNAL LEVER

15.IGNITION SWITCH

16. HAZARD WARNING SWITCH — Pull out to turn on flashers.

17.GLOVE BOX - Turn knob clockwise to open. With optional lock, turn key to vertical position to lock door.

18.OPTIONAL TRUNK RELEASE - (Inside glove compartment).

19. CIGAR LIGHTER

20. ASH TRAY - Pull out to open.

21.RADIO OR STEREO TAPE SYSTEM (Optional) – (See pages 36 to 39.)

22.REAR SPEAKER BALANCE CONTROL – (Standard with AM radio or Stereosonic Tape System.)

23. POWER ANTENNA SWITCH (Optional) - Pull rearward to raise, push forward to lower.

24. WINDSHIELD WIPER/WASHER SWITCH — Rotate clockwise to first detent for LOW speed, second detent for HIGH speed. Press switch to operate washers, this also turns wipers automatically to LOW speed. For intermittent operation

(optional), rotate the wiper-washer knob to the left. The more the knob is rotated to the left the longer the time interval between wiper blade sweeps.

25. SHIFT SELECTOR INDICATOR

26.REAR WINDOW ELECTRIC DEFROST (Optional)

★ Move switch right to turn ON.

★ Move switch to left or turn ignition switch OFF to shut off.

★ A red indicator light on the Convenience Light Group Panel will glow when electric defrost is operating.

27, HEATER-DEFROSTER OR OPTIONAL AIR CONDITIONING OR AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROL.

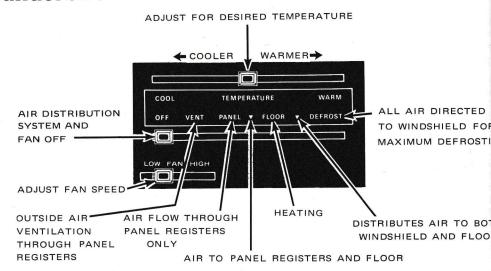
28.4-SPEED FAN SWITCH – (Not used with Automatic Temperature Control.)

29. HEADLIGHTS SWITCH — Pull to turn on parking or headlights and instrument panel lights. Rotate lights switch knob clockwise to dim or turn off instrument panel lights. Turn counterclockwise to brighten or turn on courtesy lights.

# Comfort With Your Thunderbird

# Ventilating and Heating

- ★ Ventilation air flow for cars traveling at highway speeds and with windows closed is accomplished by adjusting the panel control to the VENT position. Then air flows through the passenger compartment and out a pressure relief system incorporating valves for exit air in the body rear side pillars.
- ★ For city or slow-speed driving, ventilating air flow may be increased by opening the rear windows slightly. Ventilating air is directed through the instrument panel registers when control is set on VENT.
- ★ The air distribution (lower) lever controls the fan operation. The fan always operates at the selected fan switch speed unless the lower air distribution lever is turned to OFF.



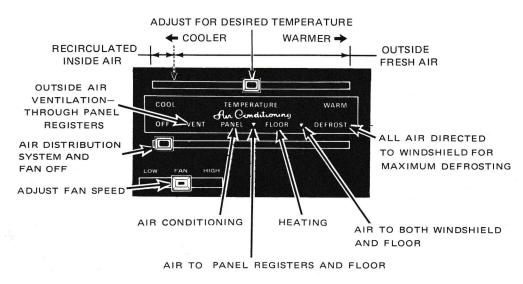
# Air Conditioning and Heater Operation (Optional)

★ Removing snow or ice from the air intake outside the car below the windshield will reduce the possibility of fog formation on the glass.

★ Operate the system for approximately 30 seconds before switching to the "DEFROST" positions. This will reduce the possibility of fog formation on the windshield.

★ The air conditioning system can be used to defog the side windows in mild weather. Set the controls to PANEL and COOL position, operate the fan at high speeds, and direct the air from the panel registers toward the windows.

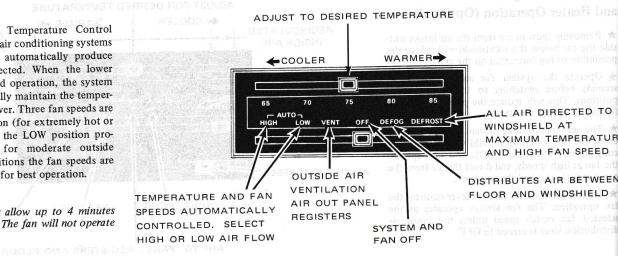
★ The air distribution (lower) lever controls the fan operation. The fan always operates at the selected fan switch speed unless the lower air distribution lever is turned to OFF.



# **Automatic Temperature Control (Optional)**

★ In the Automatic Temperature Control System, the heating and air conditioning systems have been integrated to automatically produce the air temperature selected. When the lower lever is set to the desired operation, the system will start and automatically maintain the temperature set by the upper lever. Three fan speeds are used in the HIGH position (for extremely hot or cold temperatures), and the LOW position provides five fan speeds for moderate outside temperatures. In all positions the fan speeds are automatically controlled for best operation.

NOTE: In cold weather allow up to 4 minutes for system to warm up. The fan will not operate with a cold system,



## Optional Power Seat

-PASSENGER'S SIDE

TILT SWITCHES

# **Optional Reclining Passenger Seat**

CONTROLS LOCATED IN EACH ARM REST

-DRIVER'S SIDE TILT SWITCHES

> FORWARD, REARWARD, RAISE,

LOWER SWITCH





TO RAISE PULL LEVER UP AND LEAN FORWARD

Seat Adjustment

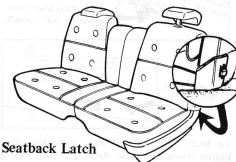
Move handle toward door, then adjust seat and release handle.



AND PUSH SEAT BACK

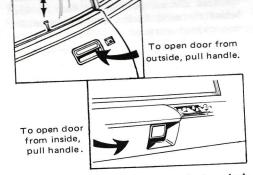
#### Head Restraints

Raise or lower to a comfortable position behind the head. Do not position the head restraint behind the neck. Bucket seats do not require separate head restraints.

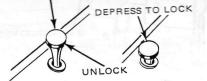


Pull lever upward to release seatback latch. Then seat can be tipped forward. If equipped with optional automatic release, seat can be tipped forward whenever door is open.

29



To lock doors without key, push door lock button down and close door. To open locked front doors from inside, pull inside door handle.



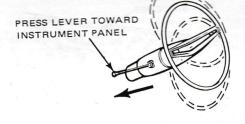
# Power Door Locks (Optional)

Front Door buttons lock or unlock both doors automatically.

# Day-Night Rear View Mirror

Move lever to desired position.





To change the steering wheel position, press turn signal lever towards instrument panel and tilt wheel to desired position. When changing tilt while car is in motion, hold wheel FIRMLY at top or bottom.

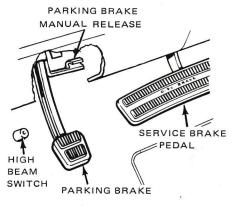
#### **Hood Release**

Move lever to the right and raise hood.



# **Parking Brake**

With transmission selector lever in NEUTRAL or PARK, press pedal down to apply parking brake-depress and hold service brake pedal while applying parking brake.



Parking brake releases automatically when engine is running and transmission is shifted out of Park or Neutral.

NOTE: A manual parking brake release is located under the dash above the parking brake pedal. Pull rearward to release.

#### Service Brakes

Rear drum brakes adjust automatically when applied while backing up and making a firm stop. Front disc brakes adjust automatically through normal usage.

CAUTION: "Riding" the Brake pedal can result in abnormally high brake temperatures, excessive lining wear and possible damage to the brakes.

## Shoulder Belt Storage

When shoulder belt is not in use, belt should be stored as follows:

Loop belt and place connector pin into slot of storage boot.

Adjust belt length so that belt is approximately

2 inches behind roof rail retainer.

Hook elastic strap over roof rail retainer.

## Front and Rear Center Seat Belts

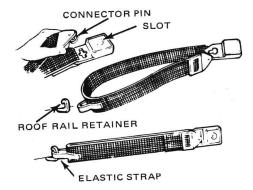
To lengthen belt, tip adjustable tongue forward and pull. (1)

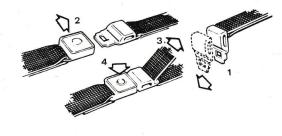
Insert belt connector into buckle. Belts must not be twisted. (2)

Pull belt end to adjust belt snugly around the hips-not the waist. (3)

Push button on buckle to release. (4)

CAUTION: Do not clean seat or shoulder belts with carbon tetrachloride or naphtha. Bleaching or redyeing the webbing is not recommended because of possible loss of webbing strength. To clean webbing, wash with any commercial soap or mild detergent.





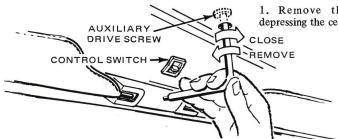
# **Sunroof Panel (Optional)**

## Operating Instructions

The Sunroof panel is electric motor driven with a two-way control switch located above the windshield between the sun visors. The ignition switch must be at ON or ACC. position to operate the Sunroof.

TO OPEN-Move the switch rearward.

TO CLOSE-Move the switch forward.



#### Maintenance

- 1. Periodically wipe the guide rail covers with a clean cloth,
- 2. The Sunroof moving parts were lubricated during installation and require no further lubrication

#### Manual Operation

The SUNROOF panel may be closed manually in case of electrical power failure as follows:

1. Remove the auxiliary drive cover by depressing the center and lifting one edge.

- 2. Using the screwdriver end of the special crank handle (located in the glove compartment), remove the exposed auxiliary drive locking screw by turning counterclockwise.
- 3. Carefully thread the other end of the special crank handle into the auxiliary drive shaft and continue turning clockwise until the SUNROOF panel is fully closed. The crankhandle can only be used to close the roof.

After performing these operations, remove the special crank handle (turning counterclockwise). Install the auxiliary drive screw and spacer washers. Install the auxiliary drive cover.

CAUTION: Do not lose the auxiliary drive spacer-washers located under the screw. Be sure to install the exact number removed.

# AM Radio (Optional)

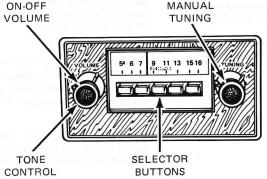
To operate your radio, follow the instructions below:

Off-On Switch, Volume Control. Turn the radio on by rotating this knob clockwise. Continue rotating the knob clockwise to increase volume.

Tone Control. Adjust the tone of the radio by turning the ring knob clockwise to increase the treble range and counterclockwise to increase the bass range.

Front-Rear Speaker Balance. A balance

control is located below the instrument panel (see page 22). This allows the operator to adjust the volume between the front and rear speakers.



Station Selection. Station selection is controlled by five push buttons or by the manual tuning control. The push buttons can be preset to five stations.

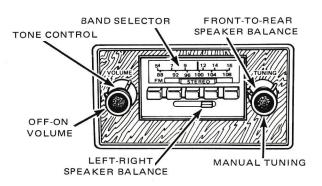
#### To Set Push Buttons

- \* Pull out button to be set.
- ★ Tune in the desired station with the manual tuning knob.
- \* Push the button all the way in and release
- \* Repeat for remaining buttons.

Power Antennas (Optional). For the best reception, the antenna should be extended to its maximum height.

CAUTION: Be sure to lower antenna before entering car wash.

# AM/FM Stereo Radio (Optional)



In addition to receiving AM and FM, your AM/FM stereo radio also receives FM stereo broadcasts.

The amber jewel light on the radio dial will glow when your radio is receiving an FM stereo broadcast. The light indicates that the radio has switched from FM into FM stereo operation. The light will remain "off" during nonstereo reception.

On-Off Switch, Volume Control—Turn the radio on by rotating the knob to the right. Continue rotating clockwise to increase volume.

Tone Control—Turn the knob clockwise to imcrease the treble tones and decrease the bass tones; turning knob counterclockwise does the opposite.

Front-Rear Speaker Balance—On models with rear seat speakers, the balance control adjusts the volume between front and rear speakers. Rotating the knob to extreme right or left confines the sound output to either front or rear speakers, or balances the sound between the speakers as desired.

Right-Left Speaker Balance—Adjust the right-left speaker balance control to confine the sound output to either right or left speaker, or to balance the sound between both speakers.

Band Selector-Slide the band selector bar to the left for AM operation and use the scale numbered 5 through 16. Slide the bar to the right and use the scale numbered 88 through 108 for FM or FM/Stereo.

CAUTION: The push buttons must all be set before the band selector bar will operate. Do not operate the band selector bar if any pushbutton is pulled out.

## **Tuning**

Station Selection is controlled by five push buttons or the manual selector knob. The push buttons can be set to five AM stations and five FM or FM/Stereo stations.

Manual Tuning AM Stations—Move the band selector bar to the AM position. Rotate the manual tuning knob to tune in the desired station on scale 5 to 16.

FM or FM Stereo Stations—Move the band selector bar to the FM position. Rotate the manual tuning knob to tune in the desired station on scale 88 to 108. Carefully adjust the manual tuning knob for minimum noise.

Push Button Tuning—Press any one of the push buttons, which automatically selects the AM or FM station for which it was preset. You can frequently get better reception by "fine tuning" with the manual control after using a push button.

# To Preset the Push Buttons:

- 1. Turn on the radio and allow it to warm up for 5 minutes.
- 2. AM Stations—Place the band selector bar in the AM position. Pull out the button to be set. Carefully tune in the desired AM station with the manual tuning knob. Push the button straight in until it stops; then release it. Repeat the precedure for the remaining buttons.
- 3. FM or FM Stereo Stations—Move the band selector bar to the FM position and set the push button in the same way as for an AM station.

Power Antennas (Optional). For the best reception, the antenna should be extended to its maximum height.

CAUTION: Be sure to lower antenna before entering car wash.

FM and FM Stereo broadcasts have some characteristics which do not appear in AM broadcasting. These conditions are not due to any fault in your car radio.

The effective range of FM and FM Stereo broadcasts is approximately 20 miles. When driving away from a station it may become necessary to fine-tune the radio and turn up the volume as the station becomes weaker. When the hissing or popping noise (which indicates a weak broadcast signal) becomes too strong, retune to another station.

Tall buildings, hills, or depressed roadway may cause garbled or weak reception or ever temporary loss of the program.

When you pass near the broadcasting tower of an FM station, that station may cut out another station to which you are listening even though you do not change your dial setting. This may even switch back and forth several times untry you get a little farther from the tower. The condition is temporary and will clear up as you move away from the offending tower.

In some cases, these conditions can be in proved by fine-tuning. If not, tune to anothe station.

# AM Radio, Stereosonic Tape System (Optional)

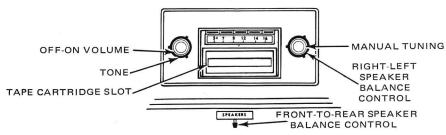
Your stereosonic tape system receives AM radio stations or plays stereo tape cartridges.

To Operate—Turn the radio on and insert the tape cartridge with the label side up and the open end into the tape slot. Make sure the cartridge is firmly seated.

During extremely cold weather, the unit may take a few minutes to warm up to operating temperature.

CAUTION: The tape cartridge should always be disengaged approximately 1 inch when not playing. Protect the open end of the cartridge from damage and dirt when not in use.

Program Channel Selection—The unit will play all four program channels automatically and in order, or the manual override can be used to select any one of the four. To change



programs, push the volume knob in and release it. Each time the knob is pushed and released, the unit will change to the next program, returning to the first channel when all programs have been selected.

Right-Left Speaker Balance Control—is the ring knob on the right of the tape slot. Turning the control clockwise reduces the volume on the left speakers and increases the volume of the right speakers, while turning the control counterclockwise does just the opposite.

Front-Rear Speaker Balance Control—The front to rear balance control is located below the instrument panel. Rotate this knob to balance the front and rear speakers for the most pleasing sound effect.

To Operate AM Radio—Turn the radio on and pull the tape cartridge from the tape slot approximately one inch or remove it entirely. This automatically switches the radio "on" and the tape system "off." The tuning knob or push buttons can be used to tune stations in the conventional manner. All other controls are common to both systems.

## Maintenance

## General

For your convenience, your car has been designed to give long, reliable service with the simplest and least costly maintenance requirements possible.

YOU PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN MAINTENANCE—Only you can make sure that your car regularly receives the care it needs. Many minor service requirements have been eliminated or the scheduled intervals are extended. It is essential that the remaining items be performed every 6,000 miles or 6 months.

Maintenance services required for reliable performance of the EMISSIONS SYSTEMS are listed in the Emissions Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules booklet. It is important that you read this booklet and have the services performed as recommended. Other maintenance services required to keep your car in good operating condition are listed on page 41.

OBSERVE THE DAY-TO-DAY CARE RECOMMENDATIONS. Watch for the symptoms described under Non-Scheduled Maintenance, and have any needed adjustments made promptly.

USE ONLY the recommended fuels, lubricants, fluids and filters conforming to Ford specifications. Autolite and Motorcraft parts are designed and built for best performance and reliability in your car. Using these parts for replacement is your assurance that Ford-built quality stays in your car.

## **Authorized Dealer Maintenance**

YOUR AUTHORIZED DEALER SPECIAL-IZES—in knowing all about Ford vehicles rather than knowing a little about all makes. THERE ARE 7,700 FORD, LINCOLN-MERCURY or FORD OF CANADA DEALER service shops ready to assist you wherever you drive in the U.S. or Canada.

THEY STOCK FORD, AUTOLITE, AND MOTORCRAFT PARTS AND LÜBRICANTS—You can be confident that these meet the same exacting design and quality standards as those used to build the car originally.

DEALER SERVICE TECHNICIANS ARE CONSTANTLY TRAINED—in the latest product developments and service techniques. Approximately 33,000 men receive training each year through Ford's forty-six service schools.

DEALER'S SHOP EQUIPMENT—is the most modern available. Ford develops and makes available to its dealers service equipment and tools which meet exacting factory standards to help do the service work quickly and correctly the first time.

## NON-SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE SERVICES REQUIRED

Items should be checked periodically and service performed when required.

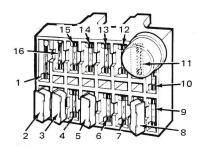
These services are not covered by the Warranty, and you will be charged for the labor, parts and lubricants used.

#### **Maintenance Operation**

- Inspect and rotate wheels and tires
- · Check air conditioning system
- Check front wheel alignment and steering linkage. Balance wheels.
- Check parking brake cable tension and adjust if required.
- Check headlamp alignment
- Clean body drain holes or examine dust valve for proper operation
- Replace windshield wiper blades.
- Lubricate door and hood hinges and checks
- Lubricate transmission linkage.

#### When Performed

- Tires show uneven wear pattern
- At beginning of warm weather season
- Poor ride and handling characteristics or abnormal tire wear
- Excessive foot pedal travel required to hold or will not hold car
- Light beam appears too high or too low
- Improper water drainage from body is suspected
- Blades do not properly clean windshield
- High effort required to swing doors or audible squeaks
- When moving parts and connections are void of lube or sluggish in action.



## Located Left of Steering Column on Dash Panel

- 1 (6 amp. fuse) instrument panel & cluster lamps, heater or A/C, headlamp switch, radio, ash tray, cigar lighters, clock, windshield wipers & PRND21 lamps.
- 2 (35 amp. C.B.) heater air conditioner
- 3 (20 amp. C.B.) power windows

- 4 (20 amp. fuse) courtesy lamps, glove box, luggage compartment, clock feed, console, dome lamp & seatback latch control, ignition key warning buzzer
- 5 (30 amp. C.B.) power seats power latch & horns
- 6 (30 amp. fuse) heated backlite
- 7 (20 amp. fuse) cigar lighter (rear doors)
- 8 (20 amp. C.B.) stop lamps & hazard warning system electric deck lid
- 9 (20 amp. fuse) cigar lighter (front) & electric door lock system
- 10 (3 amp. fuse) sure track brake system
- 11 (7.5 amp. fuse) warning lamps, door ajar, seat belt,

- low fuel, oil pressure, water temperature, dual brake wiring, electronic spark control (California only)
- 12 (7.5 amp. fuse) backup & cornering lamps
- 13 (15 amp. fuse) radio & power antenna

- 14 (15 amp. fuse) turn signal flasher
- 15 (7.5 amp. fuse) windshield washer, heated backlite relay coil feed & speed control
- 16 (7.5 amp. fuse) power window safety relay coil feed

,4	CIRCUIT PROTECTION	
CIRCUIT	RATING	LOCATION
Headlamp Circuit & Hi-Beam Indicator Lamp	20 Amp. C.B.	Integral with Lighting Switch
Tail, Prk., Lic., Marker, Head Lamp on Relay & Lamp Feed & Head Lamp Warning Buzzer	20 Amp. C.B.	*
Luggage Compt. Lock Release Solenoid	6 Amp. C.B.	Attached on Center Verti- cal Support Brace
W/S Wiper System (Inter. & 2 Speed)	C.B.	Integral with Wiper Switch
Electric Motors	C.B.	In Motor
Automatic Headlamp Dimmer	4 Amp. Fuse	Cartridge in Feed Line

## **Light Bulb Description**

|--|

Trade
Number
Hi-Beam Indicator       .194         Instrument Panel Courtesy       .631         License       .97         Luggage Compartment       .631         Oil Warning       .194         Rear Tail, Stop & Turn Signal       .1157         Temperature Warning       .194         Turn Signal Indicator       .194         Wiper/Washer       .161
Optional Bulbs
AM-FM Radio Stereo Indicator
Console
Dome/Man
Dome/Map

	Trade
	Number
oor Ajar	194
ngine Compartment	631
og	4415
og	1196
Front Cornering	194
ights-On	104
Low Fuel	194
Portable Trunk	631
Padio Dial	1893
Rear Window Electric Defrost Indicator	194
Seat Belt Reminder	194
Spotlight	4405
Spotlight	

**Ford** 

Customer

Service

District

**Offices** 

## **Dealer Assistance**

Your Ford dealer is vitally interested in your complete satisfaction with the 1972 car you purchased from him. He is always ready to help you with your maintenance needs, repairs or damages, or any other automotive services your new car may require.

To assist dealers in their continuing effort to serve you, Ford maintains Customer Service District Offices across the nation. Locations are listed on Pages 46 and 47. Should you have any questions about your car that your dealer cannot answer, the Ford Customer Service District Office in your area will be pleased to help you.

## **Customer Service**

An Ownercard is furnished with your 1972 car. It contains pertinent information about your vehicle. You should present the Ownercard to your authorized dealer when requesting warranty or maintenance services. It will help him to write up your instructions quickly and accurately.

Massachusetts, Knode Island, Northeastern Connecticut P.O. Box 587, Waltham, Mass. 02154 (617) 891-7900

Buffalo District Office Upper and Western New York, Northern Pennsylvania P.O. Box 244 Buffalo, New York 14225 (716) 632-7511

New York District Office Southeastern New York, Southern and Western Connecticut, Long Island 250 Westchester Avenue White Plains, New York 10604 (914) 948-3600

Newark District Office Northern New Jersey, Eastern New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania U.S. Highway 46 Teterboro, New Jersey 07608 (201) 288-9400 Delaware, Penninsular Maryland P.O. Box 816 Pennsauken, N.J. 08101 (609) 663-2100

Pittsburgh District Office Southwestern Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, Southeastern Ohio P.O. Box 11600 Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228 (412) 343-7000

Washington District Office Mainland Maryland, Northern Virginia, Eastern W. Virginia 8051 Gatehouse Road Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (703) 573-2100

Atlanta District Office Northern Georgia, Eastern Alabama P.O. Box 90107, East Point, Georgia 30344 (404) 767-1581 Jacksonville District Office Florida, Southern Georgia P.O. Box Y, Jacksonville, Florida 32203 (904) 781-5420

Louisville District Office Western Kentucky, Central Tennessee, South Central Indiana 1961 Bishop Lane, Louisville, Kentucky 40218 (502) 459-1620

Memphis District Office Arkansas, Western Tennessee, Northern Mississippi, Northwestern Alabama P.O. Box 8347, Hollywood Station Memphis, Tennessee 38108 (901) 323-8561

New Orleans District Office Southern Mississippi, Louisiana, Southwestern Alabama P.O. Box 517 Metairie, Louisiana 70004 (504) 888-8960 Northeastern Illinois, Northwestern Indiana 2225 North Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160 (312) 379-1000

Cincinnati District Office
Southern Ohio, Southern W.
Virginia, Eastern Kentucky,
Southeastern Indiana
P.O. Box 15093, Lockland Branch
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215
(513) 782-7800
Cleveland District Office

Cleveland District Office
Eastern Ohio,
Northwestern Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 41035
Brecksville, Ohio 44141
(216) 526-7070

Detroit District Office Southeastern Michigan, Northwestern Ohio 50000 Grand River Expy. Wixom, Michigan 48096 (313) 538-8000 Lansing District Office
Western and Northern Michigan
(exc. Upper Peninsula)
P.O. Box 1297, Lansing,
Michigan 48904
(517) 487-5011

Milwaukee District Office
Wisconsin (exc. Northwestern
Corner), Upper Peninsula
Michigan
615 E. Michigan Street,
Suite No. 400
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 273-5383

Dallas District Office Northern Texas, Oklahoma P.O. Box 37 Carrollton, Texas 75006 (214) 242-6611

## Ford Customer Service District Offices Ford Marketing Corporation

Ford Customer Service Division

Davenport District Office Northwestern Illinois, Eastern Iowa 211 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa 52801 (319)323-9701

Houston District Office Southern Texas P.O. Box 2783, Houston, Texas 77001 (713) 686-9411

Kansas City District Office Western Missouri, Kansas P.O. Box 11040, Antioch Station Kansas City, Missouri 64119 (816) 452-1150

Omaha District Office
Western Iowa,
Central and Eastern Nebraska,
Southeastern South Dakota
P.O. Box 14245, West Omaha
Station
Omaha, Nebraska 68114
(402) 393-1700

St. Louis District Office
Southern Illinois, Eastern Missouri
P.O. Box 12610
St. Louis, Missouri, 63141
(314) 542-4300

Twin Cities District Office
Northwestern Wisconsin,
Minnesota, North Dakota, Central
and Eastern Montana, Northern
South Dakota
63 St. Anthony Blvd., N.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418
(612) 781-7471

Denver District Office Colorado, Eastern Wyoming, Western Nebraska, Southwestern South Dakota P.O. Box 5588, Terminal Annex Denver, Colorado 80217 (303) 292-6220

Los Angeles District Office Southern California, Southeastern Nevada P.O. Box 127 Pico-Riviera, California 90662 (213) 723-2471 Phoenix District Office Arizona, New Mexico, Western Texas P.O. Box 844 Phoenix, Arizona 85001 (602) 264-7121

Salt Lake City District Office Utah, Idaho, Western Montana, Northeastern Nevada P.O. Box 2428, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110 (801) 487-1301

San Jose District Office Northern California, Southern Oregon, Western Nevada, Hawaii P.O. Box 1181 San Jose, California 95108 (408) 262-2414

Seattle District Office Alaska, Washington, Northern Oregon P.O. Box 3565 Seattle, Washington 98124 (206) 623-4300

## Ford of Canada-Regional Offices

Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited

Pacific Regional Office British Columbia, Yukon P.O. Box 7100 Vancouver, B.C. (604) 936-2111

Western Regional Office North West Territories, Alberta P.O. Box 2357 Edmonton, Alberta (403) 454-9621

Midwestern Regional Office Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northern Ontario—West of Geraldton 1725 Ellice Avenue Winnipeg 21, Manitoba (204) 775-8101 Central Regional Office Southern Ontario, Northern Ontario-East of Geraldton, North West Quebec 8000 Dixie Road Bramalea, Ontario (416) 459-2210

Eastern Regional Office Quebec, Labrador, Southern Ontario-East of Gananoque 7800 South Service Road Trans-Canada Highway Pointe Claire 730, P.Q. (514) 697-8220

Atlantic Regional Office New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland P.O. Box 2166, Halifax, N.S. (902) 422-7466

Outside U.S. and Canada

## **Overseas Distribution Operations**

Ford Motor Company, P.O. Box 600, Wixom, Michigan 48096 U.S.A.

## **ACCESSORIES**

**AND** 

LITERATURE

## Accessories



If you find that you overlooked some optional equipment when you purchased your new car, you can order almost any accessory from your Ford dealer.

Check the Ford accessories listed here and ask your dealer about installing extra equipment.

## Safety Equipment

Childs Safety Seat—Tot Guard Fire Extinguisher Flare Kit—Emergency

## Comfort and Convenience Equipment

Compass
Floor Mats-Vinyl or Rubber
Mirror-Vanity
Radio-AM Push Button
Radio-AM/FM Stereo
Radio-AM Stereo Tape

## Trailer Towing, Traveling and Camping Equipment

Air Springs-Level Ride, Manual or Optional Dash Control Mirrors-Remote, Manual and Trailer Towing Shock Absorbers—Heavy Duty Trailer Hitch Trailer Lights Wiring Harness Transmission Oil Cooler —Auxiliary

# Special and Protective Equipment

Air Horns
Coolant Recovery System
Door Edge Guards
Gasoline Tank Cap—Locking
Mouldings—Body Side
Tachometer
Trunk Lid Release, Remote
Wheel Covers
Wheel Splash Guards

## LUBRICANT SPECIFICATIONS

LUBRICANT SPECIFICATIONS		FORD PART NO.	FORD SPECIFICATION
ITEM	LUBRICANT NAME	,	
Motor Oil	Ford 6000 Mile Motor Oil (Canadian Long Life Super Perm Motor Oil) SAE Classification SE	C5AZ-19519-D, E K, L, M, P, S (Canadian CC7AZ- 19579-A, CC5AZ- 19579-A, G	ESE-M2C101-C
	Autolite or Motorcraft Long Life	C1AZ-6731-A	ES-C8AF 6714-A or -C
Engine Oil Filter	Oil Filter	C1AZ-19582-A	ESW-M2C33-F (Type F)
Automatic Transmission, Power Steering (Pump Reservoir)	Automatic Transmission Fluid	C7AZ-19590-A	ESA-M1C25-A
Steering Arm Stops	Steering Arm Stop Pad Lube	C6AZ-19580-B	ESW-M2C105-B
Rear Axle Conventional	Rear Axle Lubricant	C9AZ-19580-A	ESW-M2C119-A
Rear Axle—Limited Slip Differential	Rear Axle Lubricant	C6AZ-19542-A	ESA-M6C25-A
Brake Master Cylinder	Brake Fluid, Extra Heavy Duty	C1AZ-19590-B	ESA-M1C75-B
Front Wheel Bearings, Front Suspension Ball Joints, Transmission	Ball Joint and Multipurpose Lube		ESB-M1C106-B
Shift Linkage and Steering Linkage	Polyethylene Grease	C4AZ-19584-B	
Body Hinges, Hood Latch & Auxiliary Catch	Lock Lubricant	B4A-19587-A	ESB-M2C20-A
Lock Cylinders	Speedometer Cable Lube	D2AZ-19581-A	ESF-M1C160-A
Speedometer Cable	Ethylene Glycol Antifreeze/coolant	8A-19549-A, B	ESE-M97B18-C
Cooling System Antifreeze	Ethylone S. (SST)		

# Cut out along this line ---

## Service Literature To Order Shop Manuals and Wiring Diagrams

To order shop manuals or wiring diagrams (or both), fill out this order blank and the appropriate shipping label on the reverse side of this page and mail to one of the addresses listed below. All orders will be mailed within 10 days of receipt of order. Please allow ample time for postal service. Purchasers outside the domestic U.S.A. or Canada must add 30¢ to each publication for mailing expense. Funds must be payable in U.S. or Canadian currency (as applicable).

For United States residents: Mail this order form to: Ford Service Publications Post Office Box 7750 Detroit, Michigan 48207

Make check or money order payable to: Ford Service Publications

For Canadian residents:
Mail this order form to:
Ford Motor Company of
Canada, Limited
Service Publications
P.O. Box 905, Station U
Toronto 18. Ont.

Make check or money order payable to: Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited

Signature of Purchaser

#### Order Form

How Many	Form No.	Description	Price Each	Total Price
	7098-72 7795-P-72-A	1972 Passenger Car Shop Man- ual and Wiring Diagrams	\$9.45	
	7098-72	without Wiring Diagrams	7.95	
25	7795-P-72-A	Wiring Diagrams	2.00	
Total Tax				
	E: Show quar ey totals for or			
Michigan Purchasers—add 4% sales tax.				

## 1972 Shop Manuals and Wiring Diagrams

The Ford publications shown on the reverse side can be purchased by filling out the order form and mailing it with a check or money order to proper address below:

IMPORTANT: This is your shipping label. Please print clearly.

#### U.S. Residents

## FROM SERVICE PUBLICATIONS POST OFFICE BOX 7750 DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207 FOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_ POSTMASTER: This parcel may be opened for postal inspection if necessary. Return postage guaranteed.

#### Canadian Residents

FROM			
FORD MOTOR COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED			
P.O. BOX 905, STATION U TORONTO 18, ONTARIO			
FOR NAME			
STREET ADDRESS			
CITY, PROVINCE			
POSTMASTER: This parcel may be opened for postal inspec- tion if necessary. Return postage guaranteed.			

## **Cooling System Refill**

After draining the cooling system, the following refill procedure should be used to remove air from the system and provide proper coolant level.

- Place heater temperature control at maximum heat (WARM) position.
- Fill radiator to the COLD FILL level. Leave Stop engine and add coolant to one inch radiator cap off.
- Operate the engine until thermostat opens and radiator upper hose becomes hot.
  - above COLD FILL mark. Install radiator cap.

## Refill Capacities (Approximate)

Refill Capacities		Approximate Measure	
		U.s.	Imperial
Cooling System (Includes 1 qt, for heater)	429 Cu. In.	Std. — 18% qts. A/C — 19% qts.	15% qts. 16% qts.
	460 Cu. In.	Std. — 19½ qts.	16¼ qts.
Engine Crankcase (Includes 1 qt, required with oil filter replacement)	429 Cu. In. 460 Cu. In.	5 qts.	4¼ qts. 4¼ qts.
Fuel Tank (useable capacity)		22½ gal.	18¾ gal,

A/C - Air Conditioning

### **Notice**

The description and specifications contained in this manual were in effect at the time the book was approved for printing. The Ford Companies reserve the right to discontinue models at any time, or to change specifications or design, without notice and without incurring obligation.

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## RADIAL TIRES

Your new Thunderbird is equipped with radial ply tires of superior quality. These radial ply tires are engineered to match the vehicle and give balanced performance. You may expect:

- Longer tread life.
- Smoother ride at highway speeds, but slightly harder ride at low speed and, depending on type of pavement and ambient temperature encountered, an increased sound level.
- Improved puncture resistance.

Radial ply tires appear underinflated at recommended pressures when compared to conventional tires. They are designed to permit the sidewall to flex more easily and permit more tread contact with the road.

Replace individual tires with radial ply tires. Do not intermix with conventional tires, as mixing radial and conventional tires may cause unbalanced handling and poor ride performance.

Radials, because of superior traction, are all weather tires. If you require snow treads, use only radial ply snow tires.

It is essential that you always maintain inflation pressures and stay within the load limits recommended for your car on pages 12 and 13, and on the tire chart on the right door lock pillar.

Vehicle Color DSO Indent. No Code Cod
---

OWNER

AND

## WARRANTY

Vehicle—The Warranty Facts Booklet contains details of your vehicle warranty

Emissions — Refer to the Emission Systems Warranty and Maintenance Schedules Booklet

