



## TOP-10 OLD HUSBANDS' TALES ABOUT CARS

When a piece of everyday advice is widely known but its value is doubtful, people tend to brand it an "Old Wives' Tale". So when the authors of *Car Advice For Women (and Smart Men)* came across items of advice about owning and operating cars that were widely repeated but had doubtful value, they figured they should be called "Old Husbands Tales".

"After all, men generally know more about cars than women do," says co-author Susan Winlaw, "so we decided it was only fair that they should be given credit -- or blame -- for commonly-held advice about cars that might not be so good. There were quite a lot of them, but we've picked out a couple of the most popular ones and a bunch that involve safety and finances."

By far the most popular Old Husbands' Tale about cars involves oil changes and how they should be done every couple of months or every couple of thousand kilometers. "This is bad advice in almost every case," says Winlaw. "Cars built in the last few years can go a lot farther without an oil change, and that could save the average consumer a lot of money every year."

Winlaw points out that it's much more important to check the oil level in your car regularly to make sure it has enough oil than it is to change the oil. "Advice on how to check the oil and when to change it can be found in the owner's manual," says Winlaw, "and the owner's manual can be found in the glovebox."

Winlaw and her co-author, Alexander Law, investigate the reality behind a lot of Old Husbands' Tales in their 312-page book, which is a user's guide rather than a buyer's guide and is sold only at [www.CarAdviceForWomen.com](http://www.CarAdviceForWomen.com).

"While the very idea of Old Husbands' Tales is amusing," Winlaw says, "it's important that women know that many of them involve very serious issues involving the safety of your family and the money in your purse."

Winlaw says the most important items on the Top-10 list of Old Husbands' Tales involve safety. "Women are generally ill-informed about a car's safety story, and the primary goal of our book was making sure they got all the information they needed."

So here are *Car Advice For Women's* Top-10 List of Old Husbands' Tales:

- Sure it's safe, it has a five-star crash rating.
- Yeah, the kids will be safe in the back row.
- We don't need crash-notification, I have a cell phone.
- They wouldn't sell if it weren't safe.
- You can't drive a car with a flat tire.
- Residual rates are like a guaranteed thing.
- If you have a regular map, you don't need GPS.
- You should buy the "best" car in the segment.
- The destination charge is a mandatory thing.
- Change your oil every three months.

These misconceptions and others about cars often force women to make the wrong decisions, says Winlaw, and that "costs them money or endangers their safety."

With *Car Advice For Women (and Smart Men)*, Winlaw says that people who aren't that familiar with the truths about owning and operating a car have some place to go. "We also keep track of the latest car news and post the stuff that most matters to women on our other website, [www.CarNewsForWomen.com](http://www.CarNewsForWomen.com)," Winlaw says.

"The more information women have about cars," Winlaw says, "the better their chances of staying safe and solvent, and we want to help with that. The Old Husbands' Tales is a great place to start."