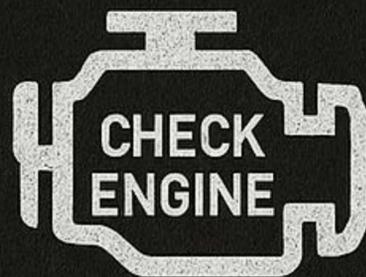
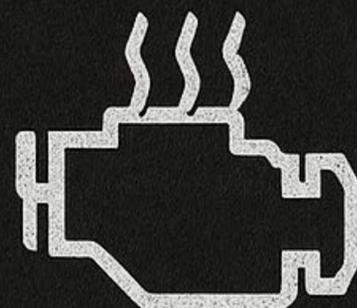
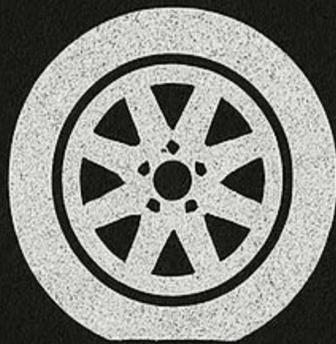
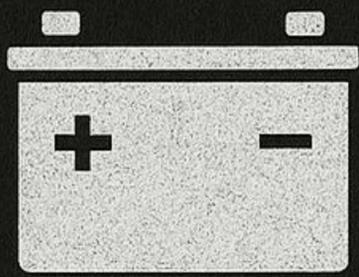


BREAKDOWN-PROOF YOUR CAR

NORTHCAP'S INSIDER GUIDE TO THE

9 MOST COMMON ROADSIDE DISASTERS

(AND HOW TO DODGE EVERY ONE)



1 PUNCTURES

WHY IT HAPPENS?

**Underinflated, Worn Thread, Road Debris,
Pot holes**

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- **Ensure tires are in good condition**
- **Properly inflated & rotate every 6k**
- **Check alignment before driving season**
- **Preseal tires for extra defence**

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- **Carry spare wheel jack & tire iron**
- **Carry 12 volt air pump**
- **Carry puncture repair plug kit**

2 FLAT BATTERY

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Cold Mornings, Short Drives, Old Battery, Parasitic Drain

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- **Replace battery every 5 years**
- **Drive or run engine at least 30 min weekly**
- **Fit trickle charger if car sits for long periods**
- **Check battery terminals at every service**

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- **Carry compact lithium jump pack**
- **Carry jumper cables**

3 OVERHEATING

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Low Coolant, Fan Fault, Stuck Stat, Hose Leak, Head Gasket Failure, Water Pump Fault

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- **Check coolant monthly**
- **Flush & replace coolant every 3 years**
- **Replace water pump & stat at 100k**
- **Inspect hoses at every service**

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- **Turn heater on full heat full blast**
- **Top up coolant when engine cools down**

4 LOCKED OUT

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Flat Key Fob Battery, Flat 12v Battery, Keys Locked In Vehicle, Lost Keys

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- Know how to access your key blade & lock
- Replace fob battery every 3 years
- Keep spare key magnetized under your chassis
- Don't keep spare key in the glovebox

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- Use spare key to access hidden door lock
- Use car maker's App to unlock car

5 CHECK ENGINE LIGHT / LIMP MODE

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Dirty MAF Sensor, Faulty O2 sensor, EVAP Faults, EGR Faults, Loose Fuel Cap Issues

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- **Replace air filter annually**
- **Clean MAF sensor**
- **Tighten gas cap until it clicks**
- **Inspect hoses at every service**

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- **Carry OBD scanner**
- **Clear random codes—if they return, investigate**
- **Tighten gas cap, clear code, and drive on**

6 ALTERNATOR OR CHARGING FAULT

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Worn Alternator, Worn Pulley, Loose Belt, Failing Voltage Regulator

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- **Test alternator output (13.8–14.2V at idle)**
- **Replace belts at the first sign of cracking**
- **Listen for whining or squealing — early signs of alternator trouble**

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- **Battery light comes on, drive straight to garage**
- **Turn off non-essentials, (heater, radio) to extend battery life**

7 NO START (STARTER OR CRANK SENSOR FAILURE)

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Heat Soak, Worn Brushes, Bad Sensor, Loose Wiring

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- **If starter sounds slow or clicks, don't wait**
- **Clean and tighten ground straps**
- **Fix intermittent starting issues early**

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- **Tap the starter gently with a long metal tool**
- **Crank sensor gone? Let it cool 10–15 mins**
- **Wiggle wiring harness near the sensor**



OUT OF FUEL OR WRONG FUEL

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Distracted Fill-ups, Rental Cars, Gauge Failures

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- Never let the tank drop below 1/4 tank
- Use a sticker on filler cap (Diesel / Unleaded)
- Double-check before borrowing or renting a car

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- Wrong fuel? Do not crank it
- Out of fuel? Fill up, cycle ignition to prime

9 ELECTRIC FUEL PUMP FAILURE

WHY IT HAPPENS?

Heat, Age, Poor Fuel Quality, or Running the Tank Too Low, Wrong Fuel

HOW TO PREVENT IT

- Never let your tank run below $\frac{1}{4}$ tank
- Use quality fuel from a reputable station
- Replace the fuel filter at recommended interval

HOW TO FIX IT YOURSELF

- No pump noise on key-on? Smack the bottom of the tank
- Check fuse and relay first
- Check for fuel at the fuel rail test port