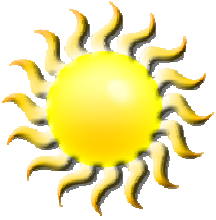


## Keeping Your Car Cooler



One unpleasant experience of Summer is facing a hot car. It's going to happen whether you're at work, at the store, at the beach, visiting a friend, or at your own home.



Every year, we locally see several reporters showing us just how hot it

can get in a parked car – well over 100 degrees when it's only in the 80s outside. If your area gets hotter than in the 80s during the summer, imagine just how hot it's really getting inside your car. (Try leaving an outside thermometer in the car and out of direct sun light to get a full understanding of how hot it gets.)

Over the course of several Florida Summers without air-conditioning in my car, I discovered a few tips that will also help **you** keep cooler in your car – whether you have working air-conditioning or not. Only one of the tips requires

something that you might need to buy. The others are simple tips that don't cost a thing.

Leave two windows cracked open.

To decrease heat build-up in your vehicle, leave at least one window cracked open when you are away from the car. It's better to leave at least two windows cracked, especially if they are across from each other. Opposite window cracks will facilitate air flow through the car, sweeping some of the heat out through one of the windows. Leaving the windows down too far, however, will allow rain to enter your car and causing mold growth. If your window has an overhang lip over the windows, you can leave them down a little further.

Use a windshield screen.

A windshield screen blocks the sun's rays from heating up your car as much as otherwise would have happened. Even a cardboard windshield screen will help decrease the heat build-up in your car, but a reflective one is even better. Reflective windshield screens are only a few dollars in the stores for a simple fold-out screen (the type that I personally prefer to use). Or spend a bit more and get a different style that suits you and your vehicle better.

Park facing the sun.

Park facing the sun or your windshield screen will not be effective.

Park in shade or where shade will occur.

If at all possible, park in shade or where shade will be later in the day while you are away from your vehicle. While a tree may not provide much shade and might drop sap on your car, it's better than having no shade. The best shade is provided by a building.

Leave the car door open for a minute or two before turning on air.

Leaving the entire door open instead of just opening one window allows more of the hot air to escape, and to do so more quickly. This makes the air-conditioner (if you have a working

one) have to work a lot less in order to cool the inside of the car. Word of advice – stay \*outside\* the car and out of the doorway while waiting for the hot air to rush out.

Dress down for the drive.

If you are coming out of work or a meeting and have a suit jacket on, remove the jacket before getting into your car. (In fact, remove it during the time that you wait for the rush of hot air leaving your open car door.) By removing the heavy layer, you feel cooler earlier in your drive. And your air-conditioner doesn't have to labor quite as hard.

Use physics to cool the car.

Roll down all your windows a couple of inches. (Don't roll them all down all the way, or it creates back drafts and also blows around any loose papers you may have in the car.) If that blows too much air into your face, roll down just the back two windows several inches.

Since last having to use these tips daily, other fans and gizmos have come on the market that are supposed to also decrease the heat in vehicles. I haven't had to test them, so I can't comment either way on them. Following the tips I've outlined above will give you a solid foundation for any extras you find that also help.

#### About The Author

Marie Rice is the founder and editor of [PartOfTheWhole.com](http://PartOfTheWhole.com) - wellness for body, mind, and spirit. She enjoys helping others reach their goals. When she's not online, Marie's spending time with her family, gardening, doing crafts, or **most likely** – reading a book!

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