

CAR PREPARATION

BMW's are well-engineered, well-built cars that are designed for enthusiastic driving. Several members have asked if there are any modifications that should be made to their cars prior to the driving school. In a word, **no**. BMW's are quite competent for this type of driving right from the showroom (after appropriate break-in, of course). If you attend driving schools or autocrosses often, you may want to install lap belts/shoulder harnesses, stiffen the suspension, or get some stickier tires, but these are all matters of personal preference and are by no means required for you to have an enjoyable weekend at the track. You will learn more in your first 3 or 4 schools in an unmodified car than in a car so capable that it masks your lack of skill or experience.

What is required is that your car be in top condition. BMW's are designed for enthusiastic driving, but it is up to you to see to it that your car is functioning as designed.

SUGGESTIONS ON PREPARING YOUR CAR

- Prior to the event, have your car inspected by a professional mechanic. **This is not a suggestion, this is a REQUIREMENT!** Included in this packet is a pre-event Technical Inspection Form that **must** be completed, signed by you and the mechanic, and brought with you to the event. If you do not bring one to registration, you will be required to **properly** fill out another one.
- It is recommended that your car has had a recent tune-up so that it is running at its best. You'll certainly enjoy it more.
- **The brake fluid should be changed and the system bled as close to the event as possible.** Brake fluid absorbs water (from the humidity in the air), which reduces the boiling point of the fluid. When people "lose their brakes" at an event like this, it is more often than not the result of boiling the brake fluid. The brake pads should have at least one-half thickness. If they don't, replace them in time to bed them in adequately before the event. We recommend you bring an extra set of pads and rotors just in case.
- The coolant system should have been flushed and coolant changed within a few months of the event to prevent overheating.
- Tires must have at least 1/16" of tread depth, with no blisters, bald spots, or other imperfections. Also, **tires that have been patched or plugged are not allowed.** You should have some additional tire pressure when you arrive at the track. Generally, for street tires, 36-38 psi is a good starting point.
- If applicable, you should remove sunroof wind deflectors. At high speeds, some of these will vibrate and may make a very disconcerting noise. Also, if your car has removable wheel centers, trim rings, etc., these should also be removed to ensure they don't fall off during the event.
- **All loose objects must be removed** from the **passenger compartment** and **trunk** of your car. This includes all items from the **center console, glove box** and **side pockets**. It is unnerving and potentially dangerous to have loose objects flying around you during hard braking and cornering. **Radar detectors** (if removable) and **garage door openers** often get left on sun visors. Don't forget the spare change in the **ashtray**. Double-check your car before your first session each day.