

Butler Automotive June Newsletter

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IS FIX-A-FLAT A DANGEROUS PRODUCT?

By [Matthew Wright](#), About.com Guide

Every time I read something about Fix-a-Flat, a bevy of mechanics, tire techs and other doomsdayers are there to tell you how dangerous a product it is. I have one word for them: **WRONG**. They claim that the propellant used in Fix-a-Flat (and similar) products can cause an explosion when a technician goes to dismount the tire for a proper repair. The story goes something like this:



A driver on the way home work gets a flat. He never bothered to check the pressure in his spare tire, and it's flat, too. Luckily his brother bought him a can of Fix-a-Flat last year, and he tossed it in the trunk. He refills the tire and heads to the tire store for a proper repair or a new tire.

At the tire shop, the technician puts the wheel on the tire machine, and somehow in the process of deflating the tire or breaking the bead a spark flies, ignites the flammable propellant the tire sealer left behind, and injures or kills him (depending on what version of the story you're listening to). The fact is that the chemical propellant used in Fix-a-Flat today is a non-flammable gas. It will not explode!

Before we start calling these doomsday screamers idiots, we should get all the facts. A little research revealed that in fact some tire sealing and inflation products *did* have explosive chemicals inside as propellants. There are a few famous cases involving serious explosions of tire sealing products. Even Fix-a-Flat had explosive qualities until 1999 when they removed the product from shelves and replaced it with a new non-explosive formula. With that info, the guys telling us that Fix-a-Flat will kill us aren't entirely misinformed, just about a decade too late.

Important Note: While we know for sure that Fix-a-Flat is non-explosive, it's very possible that other lesser known tire sealing products on the market still use a propane or butane based propellant. Be especially wary of strange off brands you find in dollar stores or at flea markets -- some of these don't even have to pass Federal muster since they're brought into the country "under the radar." To be safe, stick with a major brand like Fix-a-Flat. If you're not sure, do some research to find out how safe your product is.

Summer Safety Special

Summertime is travel time. Even with gasoline prices at an all-time high, Americans can't resist the lure of sunny skies and the open road. According to a survey by AAA, 31.7 million Americans planned to travel by car over the summer holidays, despite gas prices that are an average of \$.60 more per gallon over the previous year

\$19.99
plus the cost of parts



Before hitting the road this summer, you can take several simple precautions to keep your family safe and save money at the pump. Extreme heat and long drives can be tough on cars. Cracked hoses, leaky radiators, underinflated tires and dirty filters can significantly lower your fuel efficiency, or worse, lead to a total breakdown.

Flat Fact Besides being a safety concern, improperly inflated and misaligned tires can lower your car's fuel economy. If your tires are a total of eight pounds under-inflated -- not uncommon at all -- you'll waste up to up to a gallon of gas per month

- ✓ **Radiator Flush**
- ✓ **Check and Replace Your Air Filter**
- ✓ **Tire Checks & Rotation if needed**
- ✓ **Replace Your Windshield Wipers**
- ✓ **Inspect Your Brakes**
- ✓ **Check Your Battery**
- ✓ **Check Your Headlights**

"No one wants to have their day disrupted by a broken-down vehicle--especially when they are on vacation," says AAA Automotive Vice President Marshall L. Doney. *"Many of the problems that end up with the vehicle on the back of a tow truck could have been prevented with regular maintenance."*



Last but not least, it might sound obvious, but be sure to buckle up. 'Click it or Ticket' enforcement mobilization is running nationwide and you wouldn't want a seatbelt citation to spoil your fun or an injury to ruin your life.



On Point With Our Customers

Hello,

I visited your shop last December when you were just opening up and I really want to thank you.

For over a year I had been driving around with my check engine light on not knowing if my car was going to die or leave me stranded or whatever. I always felt like it wanted to go when I stepped on the gas, but it never felt right to me. I took my car on 2 seperate occasions to 2 DIFFERENT shops and they each charged me about the same. Each time I paid the money I felt like it was worth it until a month or so later when the problems came back up again.



I am so sick of mechanics who tell you something is fixed and the problem is still there. How do they feel justified in telling me I can pay \$300 for something and leave with my car the same or WORSE than when I brought it to them in the first place?

Anyway, when I brought my car to you , not only did you NOT CHARGE me to look at it and see what was wrong but you were able to actually FIX the problem and it has not returned. I wanted to write to say thank you for taking the time with me and really caring about me as a human being and not just as another labor driven meal ticket.

I hope your shop is doing well and I will recommend you to my friends. I wish I had brought my car to you in the first place, it would have saved me quite a bit of hassle AND money. Next time something needs to be done, I will not even think about going somewhere else.

God Bless
K.M.

Thank You

Be sure to LIKE US on Facebook to receive regular updates and special discounts. We are a full service automotive repair shop. Your one stop shop for brakes, alignments, tires, tune ups, electrical systems, air conditioning repair and more. Our main focus is to create an environment where our customers know they are receiving a level of care and expertise that is a cut above the competition. Quality personalized service is what our business is founded on. That is why you will NEVER obligated to have their repairs done with us EVEN if we diagnose your vehicle for free.

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