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From Where I Sit

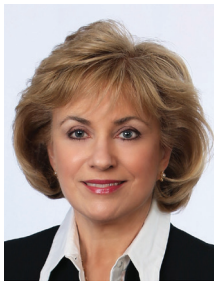
AAA Membership ideal holiday gift

Surprise your friends or family with priceless present

By Terri Petrick
President, AAA East Central

The holidays have finally arrived! There's nothing quite like this time of the year, from the endless baked goods to the lights and decorations.

It's also the time of year that, for me, three colors come to mind: white, gold and platinum. There's plenty of white snow that begins to fall, as well as a golden star and platinum tinsel adorning our holiday trees. But that's not why I think of the colors. To me, they represent three of the most practical gifts anyone can buy: the three tiers of AAA Membership cards.



Terri Petrick

The pressure is on when shopping for gifts. You rack your brain to come up with thoughtful gifts for your family and friends. That's where we can lend you a hand. AAA is a gift that keeps on giving.

AAA is famous for its 24-hour emergency roadside assistance, which alone is a great reason to buy it as a gift. You're checking an item off your holiday to-do list with the peace of mind that the recipient will be safe as they travel. Of course, no one wants to be in the position where they must use roadside assistance. But if they are, they'll be grateful for your gift.

One of the most overlooked benefits of a AAA gift membership is access to the Auto Club App (logo to the left). It can be found through the Apple Store or Google Play. It can be used to find the least expensive gas near you, access to member benefits on the go, call for roadside services digitally and more. But you won't be able to tell your gift recipient about the benefits of the app until you start using it yourself!

The Gift Of AAA

Scan QR code for details or visit AAA.com/HolidayGift.

All year, and especially around the holidays, everyone would like to save money. As you're probably already aware, AAA membership can save you money at a variety of stores, restaurants, electronics and more. In fact, AAA Members save an average of $170 a year on everyday purchases. And that's just in addition to the money you save by using AAA's services!

The recipient of your AAA gift membership also will give them access to AAA's travel agency. This doesn't just come in the form of access to a trusted, experienced AAA Travel Advisor. AAA's travel services are also available digitally through a variety of platforms. The vaguest ideas can be expanded on and booked when visiting us virtually or in person.

AAA Members have discounts available on insurance products, free identity-theft protection and other automotive and financial services. And if you are looking for one more reason to purchase a gift membership, we're running a special offer through the end of December. Scan the QR code or visit AAA.com/HolidayGift for more details.

Ice dams can result in problems

Icicles hanging from the roof might make a perfect setting for a painting – a winter wonderland, no doubt. But what if they are ice dams? Well, that's another story.

Ice dams form when warm air from inside your home melts snow on your roof. It refreezes at the eaves, creating a dam. As melting and freezing continue, water pools behind the dam and could eventually leak into your home, resulting in costly water damage.

Ice dams are a battle you don't want to fight. Protect your roof and your wallet by taking the necessary steps to prevent ice dams from forming.

Ice dams are a headache for homeowners. They look unsightly and can cause serious damage to your roof and house structure. Without proper insulation, warm air from inside the house leaks into the attic and melts snow on the roof.

This melted snow refreezes at the colder eaves – creating an ice dam – which forces its way under the shingles and finds holes in the roof decking. Suddenly, you have water dripping into your attic. You can avoid this nightmare by making sure your house is properly insulated. It could save you trouble and money in the future.

AAA recommends these steps:

- Increase attic ventilation through the use of soffit and ridge vents to help circulate air through the attic, ensuring a consistent temperature.
- Examine your insulation to make sure it's not blocking the vents and check its depth.
- Prevent heat from escaping into your attic by ensuring all attic ducts are sealed and properly insulated, and any exhaust fans lead outdoors, not to the attic.
- Consult a professional if your attic is a living space, you need vents installed or insulation added.

It's important to take steps to prevent ice dams from forming in the first place. One of the best ways is to make sure your attic insulation is adequate and properly installed.

Keeping the bottom couple of feet of roof and gutters clear of snow can help minimize ice dam formation, but it's not a foolproof solution. If you do find yourself with major ice dams, do not attempt to remove them yourself or get up on your roof. Instead, call for a professional with experience in removing ice dams safely and effectively – just be sure to ask about their methods first, as chipping or sawing away at the ice can cause damage to shingles. Prevention is key when it comes to avoiding costly repairs down the line.

Don't let ice dams lead to winter blues. If you notice water damage or leaks coming into your home, acting quickly is key. Contact your insurance provider as soon as possible.