

Summer Travel Tips

Planning a summer vacation? Provided your vehicle is well maintained, getting it ready for a road trip is relatively quick and easy. Use this vehicle safety checklist as a guide. Also, keep the emergency numbers given on the back of this sheet. You never know when you might need a hand!

Vehicle Safety Checklist

- Tire tread:** Check air pressure and tread wear on all tires, including the spare. Insert a Lincoln penny into the tread of each tire. If you can see the entire top of his head, your tread is less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep and should be replaced.
- Tire pressure:** Make sure each tire is filled to the suggested pounds per square inch (PSI) of air, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a label inside the driver's door. Check when tires are "cold" - meaning they haven't been driven on for at least three hours.
- Belts and hoses:** Look under the hood and inspect all belts and hoses. Make sure there are no signs of blisters, cracks, or cuts in the rubber. High summer temperatures accelerate the rate at which rubber belts and hoses degrade.
- Wiper blades:** Check for wear and tear on both sides. After winter storms and spring rains, it's likely your windshield wiper blades are ragged from use and need to be replaced. Like belts and hoses, wiper blades are susceptible to heat.
- Cooling system:** Check coolant level and get needed servicing. You want your cooling system functioning properly to avoid the possibility of your engine overheating.
- Air conditioning:** Make sure the air is cool. This is especially important if you are traveling with people in poor health or sensitive to heat, such as children and seniors.
- Fluid levels:** Check oil, brake, transmission, power steering, and windshield fluid. Make sure each reservoir is full and there is no sign of leakage.
- Seat belts:** Make sure the belts are working properly. It's the law! Check for frayed webbing, which can weaken the fabric. Make sure all belts retract properly and inspect the metal hardware for cracks or damaged areas.
- Lights:** Check headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, interior lights, and trailer lights.
- Emergency roadside kit:** Use the suggestions below to create your own.
 - Cell phone
 - First aid kit
 - Flashlight
 - Maps
 - Jumper cables
 - Flares or white flag
 - Car jack and ground mat for changing a tire
 - Work gloves and a change of clothes
 - Basic repair tools and some duct tape
 - Extra windshield washer fluid
 - Water and paper towels for cleaning up
 - Nonperishable food, drinking water, and medicines



Never leave children unattended in parked vehicles. Bryan's Law specifies leaving a child in a motor vehicle unattended may result in criminal prosecution. When the outside temperature is 93 degrees and your window is down one-half inch, the temperature inside your car can reach 125 degrees in 20 minutes.

If you are involved in an incident

Kentucky has a Quick Clearance Law (KRS 189.580) meaning:

If you are involved in a crash:

- If no one is visibly injured, move your vehicle to the shoulder or off the interstate or parkway
- Call police
- Exchange information

If you have a disabled vehicle:

- Move vehicle off the roadway if possible and stay in the vehicle
- Turn on emergency flashers
- Tie something white or bright to your antenna or window, or raise hood, to request aid
- If unable to move the vehicle from the roadway, stand away from the vehicle.

For police assistance call 1-800-222-5555.

Need help? The SAFE Patrol is on its way!

To aid motorists, the SAFE (Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies) Patrol is operated on Kentucky Interstates and Parkways seven days a week.

For SAFE Patrol call 1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982).



SAFE Patrol operators may provide gasoline, oil, add air to tires or change flat tires, provide a “jump” for dead batteries, and if necessary push vehicles off the roadway. Drivers also work to prevent traffic crashes by removing debris from the roadway and tagging abandoned cars. At the scene of a crash, drivers are trained in traffic flagging to assist in traffic management. For more information on the SAFE Patrol program, visit http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/safe_patrol.asp.

See a road hazard? Report it!

You can now directly inform the Transportation Cabinet of highway hazards in your area. Call the Highway Hazard Hotline at **1-877-FOR-KYTC (1-877-367-5982)** with the location of the problem, name or number of the state highway, and either a milepoint or landmark. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by Transportation Cabinet personnel and is available throughout the year.

Where can I find traffic and travel information?



Traffic and Travel Info

Call **511** if in Kentucky or 1-866-737-3767 if calling from outside of Kentucky. Information can also be found at <http://511.ky.gov>.

For additional information:

- **AAA Exchange:** <http://www.aaapublicaffairs.com>
- **AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety:** <http://www.aaafoundation.org>
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:** <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>
- **National Safety Council:** <http://www.nsc.org/issues/drivsafe.htm>
- **Rubber Manufacturer's Association:** <http://www.rma.org>
- **The USAA Educational Foundation:** www.usaaedfoundation.org

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Office of Highway Safety



<http://highwaysafety.ky.gov>
502-564-1438 or 1-888-374-8768