

Summer Travel Tips

Planning on traveling this summer? Use this vehicle safety checklist as a guide and enjoy your trip!

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

ALERT

Never leave children unattended in parked vehicles. 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.