

# Is Your Car Ready For

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- \* Antifreeze
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- \* Oil Change
- \* Washer Fluid
- \* Belts & Hoses





## Items To Include In Your Automotive Emergency Kit

Road trips can make for great weekend getaways or even more lengthy vacations for those who can't get enough of the open road. But before embarking on any road trips, motorists should replenish their automotive emergency kits with the following items so they are fully prepared in the event of an accident or an injury.

• First-aid kit: A first-aid kit can treat cuts and abrasions suffered while you are out of the car and even some minor injuries that may result if you are in a car accident. Include essential items like adhesive tape, antibiotic ointment, antiseptic wipes, aspirin, bandages, a cold compress, gauze, and scissors. Visit www.redcross.org for a more

www.redcross.org for a more extensive list of items to include in your first-aid kit, which should be kept in your car at all times.

• Tools: It's important to include tools in your automotive emergency kit. While a full toolbox might be unnecessary, bring

along an adjustable wrench, a flat head and Phillips screwdriver, a pair of pliers, a tire jack and crow bar, an ice scraper, and a flashlight. Extra roadside flares and reflectors also should be packed should you need to pull over and address an automotive problem, such as a flat tire. Keep a tire pressure gauge in your glove compartment or with your other tools so you can check tire pressure if you feel your car is not operating as smoothly as it normally does.

shibothly as it normally does.

Fluids: While it's best to check all of your vehicle's fluids before beginning a road trip, it does not hurt to bring along some extra fluids just in case you start to run low while out on the road. Fluids to pack include motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, and windshield washer fluid. Include a funnel with these items so you can easily pour them in should you be running low. Pack an empty spray bottle as well so you have something to spray washer fluid from if a problem

arises with your wiper blades.

• Wiper blades: Include an extra set of wiper blades in your automotive emergency kit. Maintaining wiper blades is an oft-overlooked component of vehicle maintenance, so bring along an extra set of blades should your existing blades succumb to wear and tear while you're on the road.

• Miscellaneous items: Some items that may not seem synonymous with road trips can come in handy should you find yourself in an emergency. Pack a blanket so you and your passengers can stay warm should your car break down at night. In addition, pack some energy bars and bottled water so no one gets too hungry or thirsty while waiting for help to arrive. It's also good to keep a pair of work gloves in your car so you can still use your tools or change a tire when the temperatures dip or your hands get sweaty on hot days.

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## Don't Forget Headlights When Performing Routine Maintenance

(MS) Veteran and even novice drivers understand the importance of visibility when they get behind the wheel of their vehicles. When visibility is not an issue, drivers can more easily see their fellow motorists and better anticipate potentially dangerous situations. But when visibility is compromised, drivers and their passengers are vulnerable to a host of dangers, including inclement weather and aggressive motorists.

Many things can affect drivers' visibility on the road, but those who take a proactive approach to improving their visibility can put themselves in a better position to handle any negative situations that may arise. One of the ways to do just that is to pay more attention to your head-lights. Often overlooked when performing routine vehicle maintenance, headlights must be maintained to ensure optimal visibility for drivers.

The following are a few ways drivers can improve the performance of their headlights to make their vehicles safer for themselves and their passen-

gers.
• Pay attention to the headlights' output. Perhaps the most noticeable indicator of an aging headlight is its light output. As bulbs start to dim, drivers may find themselves struggling to see during twilight and at night. That difficulty is not necessarily because drivers' own vision is failing, but may be a result of aging bulbs whose light output is gradually reduced by the effects of humidity, electrical resistance and filament fatigue. Drivers who notice their headlights are not producing as

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much light as they once did should know that reduced output is a telltale sign of aging bulbs that need to be replaced. · Say "so long" to the status

Recognizing dimming bulbs is just the first step toward improving the performance of your headlights. The next step is for drivers to recognize that all headlight bulbs are not created equal. Instead of replacing existing bulbs with the same type of bulbs provided by their vehicle's manufacturer, drivers can vastly improve their visibility by upgrading to a bulb designed to provide more light than the standard halogen bulbs found in many of today's vehicles. Leading automotive lighting manufacturer Philips produces a range of Upgrade Headlight Bulbs that offer up to 100 percent more light on the road than standard halogen bulbs. That's a significant benefit to drivers, as motorists' visual acuity is reduced by 70 percent at night, when statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicate 49 percent of all fatal accidents occur. The NHTSA also notes that the fatality rate per mile driven at night is roughly three times as high as it is during daylight hours.

• Find the right fit. The right

headlight bulb can dramatically improve visibility when driving at night, but what's good for the goose is not always good for the gander. That's because motorists drive for various reasons and on various roads, so the right bulb for seniors who don't often take to the highways will not necessarily be the best fit for commuters who routinely

*Moyer*Subaru.com

drive long distances. Philips makes a headlight bulb for every type of driver, and each Upgrade Headlight Bulb creates a better beam pattern that is dramatically longer than that provided by standard halogen lights, ensuring drivers can safely see no matter how accustomed they are to driving at night.

· Let there be light. Regardless of how effective a bulb has the potential to be, drivers who don't routinely clean their headlights will continue to have their visibility compromised. Certain preventative measures can help drivers address headlight issues before they appear, ensuring their visibility is not compromised. When checking vour oil in the driveway or even when you're filling up at the gas station, take a few moments to inspect your headlights and address any issues that arise as soon as possible. Philips Headlight Restoration Kit includes a post-treatment that provides long-lasting UV protection for headlight lenses. The kit also includes a clean-er/polish and restorer/protector so drivers can restore their headlight lenses to "like new" quality while increasing visibility and reducing glare in as little as 30 minutes. Such quick and simple maintenance can ensure vour headlights are performing optimally.

More information is available at www.philips.com/automotive. Standard headlight bulbs (left) vs. Philips X-tremeVision bulbs (right) that provide up to 100 percent more light on the road.

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## Simple Ways To Trim Auto Insurance Costs

The cost of owning an automobile extends beyond maintenance and fueling costs. One of the biggest expenses motorists must plan for is auto insurance, the cost of which can vary greatly depending on geography and driver history.

But no matter where drivers live or what their histories are, there are some simple ways for drivers to save money on their monthly insurance premiums.

 Reassess your driving habits. Auto insurance companies consider how many miles drivers drive per year when determining the cost of an insurance policy. Many drivers provide this information when opening a policy, but then never update it

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when renewing or extending their policies. If you drive less now than you did when you opened your policy, notify your insurance company and you might end up paying less each month, especially if your daily commute is considerably shorter than it used to be.

Check your credit rating. Another way to save money on your auto insurance is to check your credit rating and, if necessary, take steps to improve your credit score. Credit rating is another variable insurance companies use to determine drivers' premiums, and a good credit rating can save drivers a substantial amount of money on their policies. If your credit insurance reduced dramaticalview your credit report to deterpremiums.

• Change your policy. Drivers which pays you if your car is damaged or destroyed in an save you between 10 and 15

Auto insurance is a necessity for drivers of all ages, but there are several ways to cut the costs of insurance premiums without affecting coverage. Drivers looking to save money

on their auto insurance policies should let their agents know if their driving habits change.

rating has improved since you opened your policy, contact your insurance company and you might see the cost of your ly. It's also good to periodically mine if there are any errors that are negatively affecting your rating. Such errors may be inflating your auto insurance

 Hit the books. No matter how many years you have behind the wheel, your auto insurance company may offer you discounts if you periodically take defensive driving courses. Such classes are inexpensive, but they may save you as much as 10 percent on the cost of your auto insurance policy. Young, inexperienced drivers and seniors tend to benefit from defensive driving courses more than other drivers.

whose cars are older and completely paid off might want to drop their collision insurance, accident. Such insurance won't yield much in return if your car is not worth much money, and dropping it from your policy can percent.





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## Protect Your Vehicle From Snow, Ice And Damage From The Cold

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a fact of winter life. While winter can test people's patience, it also can be harsh cars and Understanding what components of a vehicle can be compromised by dropping temperatures and snowy roads can help

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drivers take action to safeguard their automotive investments.

While the Canadian Automobile Association notes that winter can wreak havoc on just about every part of a vehicle, there are some parts that seem to bear the brunt of Old Man Winter's abuse. Properly servicing and caring for a car or truck can

Drivers should take their vehicles for a tuneup and inspection

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before wintry weather arrives. A mechanic will examine the car battery and check antifreeze levels and make sure that the thermostat, defroster, brakes, and even wiper blades are working effectively. Have the tires inspected for adequate tread, which can make navigating roads safer. If the treads are worn, replace the tires.

610 683 8231 5140 Kutztown B

In addition to visiting their mechanics, drivers can perform some inspections and fixes themselves.

Check that all of the vehicle's lights are operational so your car can be easily seen during inclement weather. Exchange your existing windshield washer fluid with one that will not freeze in cold conditions. Check the nozzles on the windshieldwasher system routinely and clear out any blockages of ice or debris. While addressing windblades with ones that can with-

rust. Be sure to rinse off the serve as a shield against road undercarriage of the vehicle as polymer wax to protect the

· Have your tires' alignment checked toward the end of winter or early spring. A season of traveling over pothole-ridden roads or hitting curbs buried under snow drifts can affect the alignment. Get everything back on track. Similarly, inspect tires routinely, as weather changes can affect tire pressure and

· Use a soft snow brush or a foam brush to clear snow off of the car. Avoid hard plastic scrapers you might use on your windshield, as they can scratch painted surfaces.

Try to park the vehicle in a garage or under a car port, each of which can protect cars and trucks from the often harsh elements of winter.

Vehicles can be affected by the cold weather. Keep them running efficiently to prevent damage this winter.

Scrapers should only be used on windows and not on the body of the car.



& Affordable it dries simply because moisture SERVICE & SALES is the active ingredient for a corrosive reaction. But humidity in **EXPERT AUTO BODY REPAIR** shield washer fluid, also replace the air is enough to keep the worn out windshield wiper salt eating away at the car's paint, and that can contribute to stand snow and icy weather. Free Rental Car While Your Body Work Is Being Done COMPLETE VEHICLE REPAIRS & SERVICE Official Safety & Emission Inspection Station Now Doing Motorcycle & Light Trailer Inspections Complete Check Engine Light **CK OUR USED CAR LINEUP AT:** www.perryautoservice.com



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wear away at the paint. Some

drivers mistakenly believe that

salt stops being a problem once

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Wet weather can be fickle, vacillating between dry, wet and even icy conditions. Drivers need to remain on their toes to safely traverse roadways near and far.

Wet roadways and poor driving conditions contribute to thousands of road accidents each and every year. As roads get wet, oil and other substances rise to the surface of the pavement, which can quickly become slippery and compromise the traction offered by tires. According to the United States Department of Transportation, there are around 707,000 automobile

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crashes each year due to rain. Heavy rains also may lead to pud-dles, which can obscure hazards on the roadway. Cars may stall out in puddles or hydroplane, which occurs when cars coast along the surface of the water. Puddles also can be splashed by oncoming cars, leading to visibility issues.

It is in every driver's best interest to use caution when driving on wet roads. The following tips can help prevent accidents, injuries and even

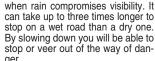
fatalities during the rainy season.

• Slow down. Drivers should drive when roads are wet and

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- ger.
   Leave room. When driving on wet
- way.
   Stay alert. It can be easy to be lulled into complacency while driving. But staying alert and conscious of every detail going on around you can reduce your risk of accident when driving in less than ideal conditions.
- Skip cruise control. As a driver, you want to remain in control of acceleration and speed, rather than leaving it up to the cruise control system. If you begin to hydroplane on cruise control, the
- Use your headlights. Headlights can light up the road in front of you, helping illuminate potential hazards. road. Always turn on the headlights
- steady pace and the vehicle in concan cause the vehicle to spin out or



- roads, leave more room between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Again, this plays into stopping distance. Tailgating increases your risk of rear-ending a vehicle if you cannot stop in time on a wet road-
- car may actually speed up.
- Lights on a car also make your vehi-cle more visible to others on the in inclement weather.

  • Avoid jerky movements. Keep a
- trol. Jerking the wheel or accelerating and braking in a erratic fashion skid on wet roads.

  • Check your tires. Inspect your tires
- for tread wear and air pressure. Tires should be rotated as part of routine maintenance. Poorly performing tires are a significant safety risk. If you live in an area known for a lot of rain, invest in tires designed for wet road conditions.

Don't let wet weather get the best of you. Slow down, stay visible and be on the alert.









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## Warning Signs A Tire Is About To Go Flat

Few drivers will be fortunate enough to go their entire driving lives without encountering at least one flat tire. Flat tires range from the inconvenient flats, which may interrupt a road trip or make drivers late for work or an appointment, to dangerous blowouts, more which can compromise the safety of drivers, their passengers and anyone else on the road when the tire gives out.

But as inconvenient or dangerous as flats or blowouts can be, they also can be prevented more often than not. Tires often produce warning signs that a flat or blowout is about to emerge, so drivers who want to avoid such unfortunate developments can inspect their tires

for the following signs.

Varying wear: Tires should exhibit the same type of wear. The wear on front tires and back tires may differ, but one front tire should have the same amount of wear as the other and the same goes for the back tires. Uneven tread on tires indicates that the tire with more wear could be about to go out.

• Worn tread: Even drivers who

know little about cars can typically recognize when tire tread has worn down to the point where the tire is a safety risk. But drivers who are unsure can employ the quarter test. Insert a quarter into the tread of the tire, with George Washington's head upright. If you can see the hairline of the United States' first president, then you need to replace the tire. Perform this test on each of your vehicle's four tires.

• Low pressure: Drivers who do not routinely check their tire pressure are more likely to endure a flat or blowout than those who regularly make sure their tires are at the manufacturer-recommended pressure, which can be found in a vehicle owner's manual or by calling the tire manufacturer or visiting their website. An underinflated tire is under stress that can cause the tire to blowout. In addition, poorlya inflated tires force engines to work harder, which negatively affects a car's

fuel efficiency.

• Vibration: A car that vibrates excessively may do so because tires are damaged. Poor suspension is another cause of excessive vibration. Whatever is behind a car that is vibrating, drivers should immediately take the car to their mechanic for an inspection.

 Physical damage to the tire: Sometimes tires exhibit physical damage like bulges or cuts, and such signs could mean a flat tire or blowout is just around the corner. Tires that exhibit such physical damage need to be replaced immediately.

Flat tires and blowouts can prove both scary and inconvenient. Drivers who want to avoid such problems should routinely inspect their tires for indicators that a flat or blowout is likely to

Routinely checking tire pressure and inflating underinflated tires is one way drivers can reduce their risk of flat tires and

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## Ηοω Handle Car Trouble While Driving

Sudden car trouble is something no driver wants to experience, but many a driver has been driving down the highway only to feel his or her vehicle start to sputter. Such sputtering might indicate a car is running low on fuel, or it could be a sign of something more serious that requires motorists to think as quickly and safely as possible.

When car trouble strikes while a whicle is on the road, the first thing many drivers do is check their fuel gauges. A car that runs out of gas is certainly inconvenient, but if you can pull over to the shoulder or make it to the nearest filling station, then this unfortunate situation can be remedied rather easily. But when a car's tank is full and it is still showing signs of trou-ble, drivers must take steps to protect themselves, their passengers and their vehicles. The following are a few simple tips motorists should keep in mind so they can safely handle any car trouble that may arise while they are out on the road.

• Keep a first-aid kit, spare tire

and tire jack in the car at all

times. Flat tires are no fun, but they are even more of a nui-

sance when drivers are not prepared to address them. Always keep a jack and spare tire in your car, even if the spare is a donut you can temporarily use to replace a flat tire until you make it to a filling station or automotive supply store. As an added safety measure, keep a fully stocked first aid kit in your vehicle in case you cut yourself while changing the tire or need to address another medical situation. Visit www.redcross.org for a list of items to include in your automotive emergency kit. Keep a blanket in the trunk as so your passengers can stay warm should you experi-ence car trouble on a cold day

 Make note of your surroundings. Some car troubles can only be fixed by the professionals, so pay careful attention to your surroundings in case an issue arises and forces you to pull over and call for help. Always pay attention to mile markers and any landmarks that might help you describe where you are. Car troubles can strike at any time and anywhere, so be sure to pay special attention to your surroundings when drithe authorities if need be.

behind the vehicle's right side.

Stay with the vehicle. Once you have called for help and set

ving in unfamiliar areas.

• Pull over. Don't panic if an issue arises suddenly. Remain calm and pull over onto the shoulder. The right shoulder is the area for pulling over on most roads, but you may also use the left shoulder on multilane highways with medians. Try to get as far away from traffic as pos-sible without driving off of level ground, and always use your signals when pulling onto the shoulder. If the vehicle can't make it to the median, put your emergency flashers on and get out of the car, moving away from both the vehicle and traffic. Immediately call for emergency roadside assistance, alerting

 Use flares or triangles to alert other drivers. So long as you are not risking your well-being, you can place flares and/or warning triangles behind your vehicle so oncoming traffic knows to drive around it. The popular not-for-profit motor club AAA recommends placing the first flare or triangle 10 feet directly behind the side of the vehicle that is closest to the road. The second should be placed between 30 and 60 feet increase the distances as the posted speed limit increases) behind the middle of the bumper, while the third flare or triangle should be placed between 120 and 360 feet

up flares or triangles, stay with the vehicle, though do so at a safe enough distance so you are not in harm's way.

Sudden car troubles can be scary, but drivers who approach such issues calmly and quickly can reduce their risk for accident or injury.





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