

VEHICLE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

check these before your next road trip

AIR FILTER(S) | For better fuel mileage, replace your air filter if it's been awhile. The air filter traps particles from entering and overtime will become much less effective. Depending on the year of your car, you may also have a cabin air filter that's worth checking to ensure that the air that's coming into the vehicle is as clean as possible.

BATTERY | Check your battery for corrosion and ensure that your are snugly in place. If you're worried about your battery starting while you're on the road as it may be a bit older, consider bringing a portable jump starter.

BRAKES | You want your brakes to be in tip top shape if you really have to use them to avoid an accident so have them looked at and replaced if necessary.

FLUIDS | Be sure to ensure that your vehicle has enough of all of the following fluids: power steering, brake, windshield washer, radiator coolant, antifreeze, and engine oil. Also, be sure to check the filter for the engine oil.

HOSES/BELTS | Make sure all connections for belts and hoses are tightly secured. This could include your serpentine belt, timing belt, V belt, coolant hoses, windshield washer hoses, and more. Also replace your windshield wipers if necessary.

LIGHTS | Make sure all exterior lights and interior lights are fully functioning. This includes daytime, brights, turn signals, reverse lights, brake lights, dash lights, and interior lighting throughout the car. Replace any bulbs that are burnt out.

TIRES | Be sure to check the tire pressure and tread for tires. The tire pressure is important, especially depending on the time of the year. They should be a little less inflated in the Winter and closer to the maximum limit in Summer. Check to make sure you have enough tread and no unusual wear on any of the tires. Also, ensure that your spare tire is ready for use.