



Summer Road Trip Car Prep Checklist

TIRES & WHEELS

- Inspect Tread Depth:** Use the quarter test—insert a quarter into the tread with Washington’s head down. If you can see the top of his head, it’s time to replace the tire.
- Check Tire Pressure:** Ensure all tires, including the spare, are inflated to the manufacturer’s recommended PSI.
- Look for Damage:** Examine tires for cuts, bulges or sidewall damage.
- Rotate Tires:** Rotate tires every 5,000 to 7,500 miles to promote even wear.



BATTERY & ELECTRICAL

- Test Battery:** Have your battery tested, especially if it’s over three years old. AAA offers free testing for members.
- Clean Terminals:** Ensure battery terminals are clean and free of corrosion.
- Secure Connections:** Check that battery cables are tightly connected.



ENGINE & FLUIDS

- Check Engine Oil:** Verify oil level and condition; top off or change if necessary.
- Inspect Coolant Level:** Ensure coolant is at the proper level to prevent overheating.
- Brake Fluid:** Check brake fluid level and condition.
- Transmission Fluid:** Verify transmission fluid is at the correct level and clean.



CLIMATE CONTROL

- Test Air Conditioning:** Ensure the A/C is blowing cold air; have it serviced if not.
- Replace Cabin Air Filter:** Change the cabin air filter to maintain air quality inside the vehicle.

EMERGENCY & SAFETY KIT

- First Aid Kit:** Include bandages, antiseptics, pain relievers and any necessary medications.
- Jumper Cables:** Carry a set of jumper cables or a portable jump starter.
- Flashlight & Batteries:** Have a working flashlight with extra batteries.
- Basic Tools:** Include screwdrivers, pliers and an adjustable wrench.
- Emergency Flares or Reflective Triangles:** Use to alert other drivers if you’re stopped on the roadside.
- Water & Snacks:** Keep bottled water and non-perishable snacks on hand.

CLEANLINESS & COMFORT

- Clean Interior & Exterior:** Wash and vacuum your car to start the trip fresh.
- Organize Essentials:** Ensure registration, insurance and owner’s manual are easily accessible.
- Entertainment:** Download music, podcasts or audiobooks for the journey.

PRO TIP:

Before embarking on your trip, consider scheduling a comprehensive vehicle inspection at a AAA-owned Car Care Center or a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility. AAA members receive discounts and can ensure their vehicle is road-trip ready.

Safe travels and enjoy your summer adventure!