



Car Maintenance Checklist

◆ Every Day / Before Driving

- ✓ Check fuel level
- ✓ Check dashboard warning lights
- ✓ Ensure mirrors, windows, and lights are clean and visible
- ✓ Confirm tires look properly inflated (visual check)
- ✓ Listen for unusual noises when starting

◆ Weekly

- ✓ Check windshield washer fluid
- ✓ Check tire pressure (use a gauge, not just visually)
- ✓ Check tire tread for uneven wear or damage
- ✓ Clean interior (remove trash, wipe surfaces)
- ✓ Test all lights (headlights, brake lights, indicators)

◆ Monthly

- ✓ Check engine oil level
- ✓ Check coolant/antifreeze level
- ✓ Check brake fluid level
- ✓ Check transmission fluid (if applicable)

- ✓ Check power steering fluid (for older cars)
- ✓ Clean battery terminals (look for corrosion)
- ✓ Inspect belts and hoses for cracks or wear
- ✓ Vacuum carpets and clean mats

◆ **Every 3 Months / 3,000–5,000 Miles (5,000–8,000 km)**

- ✓ Change engine oil & oil filter (or as recommended by manufacturer)
- ✓ Check and top off all fluids
- ✓ Inspect wiper blades for wear, replace if streaking
- ✓ Check tire alignment & rotation
- ✓ Inspect brakes (pads, rotors, fluid lines)
- ✓ Check exhaust system for leaks or rust
- ✓ Inspect suspension components

◆ **Every 6 Months / 6,000–7,500 Miles (10,000–12,000 km)**

- ✓ Rotate tires (if not already done)
- ✓ Check spare tire condition & pressure
- ✓ Check and clean battery connections
- ✓ Inspect cabin air filter, replace if dirty
- ✓ Inspect headlights, taillights, fog lights for brightness
- ✓ Lubricate door hinges, locks, and latches

- ✓ Wash and wax exterior to protect paint

◆ Annually / 12 Months

- ✓ Replace engine air filter
- ✓ Flush and replace windshield washer fluid
- ✓ Inspect and possibly replace brake pads & rotors
- ✓ Inspect shocks and struts
- ✓ Have wheel alignment checked
- ✓ Deep clean interior (shampoo carpets, clean vents)
- ✓ Replace windshield wipers if not already done

◆ Every 2 Years

- ✓ Flush and replace brake fluid
- ✓ Replace cabin air filter (if not done sooner)
- ✓ Inspect fuel system & replace fuel filter (if applicable)
- ✓ Replace engine coolant/antifreeze (check manual)
- ✓ Professional detail cleaning inside & out

◆ Every 3–5 Years

- ✓ Replace battery (depending on condition)
- ✓ Replace serpentine belt (check for cracks earlier)

- ✓ Replace spark plugs (if not long-life plugs)
- ✓ Check and possibly replace water pump
- ✓ Flush transmission fluid (if not sealed unit)
- ✓ Inspect timing belt/chain (replace if due)

◆ Long-Term / 100,000+ Miles (160,000 km)

- ✓ Replace timing belt (if not already done)
- ✓ Replace major suspension components (bushings, control arms, shocks)
- ✓ Check exhaust system (catalytic converter, muffler)
- ✓ Replace hoses and belts proactively
- ✓ Consider replacing alternator or starter if showing signs of wear

◆ Emergency Kit to Always Keep in Car

- ✓ Jumper Cables or Portable Jump Starter
- ✓ Tire Sealant or Inflator Kit
- ✓ Spare Tire (donut/full-size)
- ✓ Jack and Lug Wrench (know how to use them!)
- ✓ Basic Tool Kit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench)
- ✓ Flashlight with Extra Batteries
- ✓ First-Aid Kit
- ✓ Warning Triangles or Flares

- ✓ Duct Tape and Zip Ties
- ✓ Towel, Gloves, and Rain Poncho
- ✓ Phone Charger (12V adapter)
- ✓ Bottled Water and Non-Perishable Snacks

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