



BEAT THE HEAT

A few minutes now can prevent a bigger problem later.

Use this two-sided checklist before the next heat wave, long drive or summer road trip.

- ☐ Inspect on a cool engine and cold tires.
- ☐ Keep the owner manual or door placard handy.
- ☐ Schedule service if anything looks questionable.

1 START WITH THE COOLING SYSTEM

- ☐ Confirm the coolant reservoir is at the proper level.
- ☐ Look underneath the vehicle for leaks or wet areas.
- ☐ Inspect the radiator, fans, fan shrouds, hoses and coolant tank for visible wear or damage.
- ☐ Use coolant that meets the vehicle manufacturer's specifications.

Safety: Never remove a radiator cap while the engine is hot.

2 INSPECT THE RADIATOR, CONDENSER AND FRONT END

- ☐ Check for bent supports, damaged fan assemblies, restricted airflow or leaks.
- ☐ After a collision or contact with an animal, curb or road debris, inspect the entire front-end cooling area.
- ☐ Have changes in cooling or A/C performance checked after an impact.

3 CHECK TIRE PRESSURE AND CONDITION

- ☐ Check pressure when tires are cold; use the owner's manual or driver-door placard.
- ☐ Inspect for cuts, punctures, cracks, bulges and embedded objects.
- ☐ Check uneven tread wear and tread depth.
- ☐ Inspect the spare tire and confirm the jack and tools are present.

4 TEST THE BATTERY AND CHARGING SYSTEM

- ☐ Look for corrosion around the terminals.
- ☐ Make sure battery connections are clean and secure.
- ☐ Test the battery if starting is slow, lights dim while starting or the battery is aging.
- ☐ Confirm the alternator and charging system are working properly.

5 EXAMINE BELTS AND HOSES

- ☐ Look for cracks, cuts, frayed edges, bulges, blisters, soft or brittle areas, leaking connections and loose clamps.
- ☐ Replace visibly damaged components before a broken belt or leaking hose leads to overheating or a disabled vehicle.

6 CHECK YOUR FLUIDS

- ☐ Engine oil and coolant
- ☐ Brake fluid
- ☐ Transmission or clutch fluid
- ☐ Power-steering fluid
- ☐ Windshield-washer fluid
- ☐ Investigate puddles, stains or recurring wet areas.

Electric and hybrid vehicles may have manufacturer-specific fluid and cooling requirements.

7 MAKE SURE YOUR A/C IS READY

- ☐ Confirm the system produces consistent cold air.
- ☐ Watch for weak airflow, unusual noises, odors or air that never becomes cold.
- ☐ Check the cabin air filter according to the maintenance schedule.
- ☐ Inspect front-end A/C components if performance changed after an impact.

8 CHECK LIGHTS, WIPERS AND VISIBILITY

- ☐ Test headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, backup lights and trailer lights when applicable.
- ☐ Inspect wipers for cracking, splitting or deformation.
- ☐ Clean the windshield, mirrors, headlights and backup camera before leaving.

9 PACK A SUMMER ROADSIDE KIT

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| ☐ Drinking water | ☐ Jumper cables or jump pack | ☐ Paper towels |
| ☐ Phone charger or power bank | ☐ Tire-pressure gauge | ☐ Nonperishable snacks |
| ☐ First-aid kit | ☐ Reflective triangles or emergency flares | ☐ Necessary medications |
| ☐ Flashlight | ☐ Work gloves and basic tools | ☐ Spare tire, jack and tools |

Before leaving: check weather and road conditions, and share your route and expected arrival time.

THE MOST IMPORTANT HEAT-SAFETY RULE

Never leave children or pets unattended inside a parked vehicle.

Always check the back seat, lock unattended vehicles, keep keys away from children, plan regular breaks and make sure everyone has access to water.

