

CHECKLIST FOR SAFETY

Tips For Vehicle Maintenance

Here are four basic safety checks for your vehicle daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal. These common-sense reminders not only help you drive with more confidence, but also extend the life of your vehicle.

The Daily Inspection

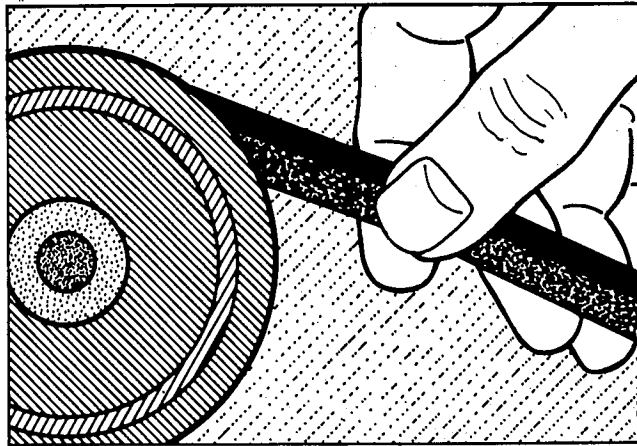
Get in the habit of checking these items at least once every day that you drive.

- Outside the vehicle. Look for body or trim damage, cracked lights or windows and worn tires.
- Under the vehicle. Check on the ground for spots under the radiator, oil pan or transmission. Be sure to put on the emergency brake and block the tires before getting under the vehicle.
- Inside the vehicle. Are your mirrors, safety belts, lights, door latches and dashboard gauges functioning properly? Adjust mirrors as needed.

The Weekly Inspection

If you don't have time to do these weekly checks yourself, have them done at a service station with every other fill-up. If you do them yourself, be sure the engine is off and cool.

- Oil level. Make certain the vehicle is on level ground. When adding



Check under the hood weekly for cracked, loose hoses and belts.

oil, use the type recommended in your owner's manual.

- Coolant level. Check the level in the overflow reservoir or in the radiator itself if your vehicle has no overflow reservoir. Remove the radiator cap only when the engine is cool.
- Under the hood. Look around. Is anything loose, cracked or leaking?
- Fuel consumption. Keep track of your miles per gallon. If mileage goes down significantly, it's time for a tune-up or repairs.
- Tire pressure. For safety and better gas mileage, inflate tires to the pressure recommended in your owner's manual. Fill your spare, too.

The Monthly Inspection

This maintenance check covers all your vehicle's major parts. It should be done monthly or every 1,000 miles. Make sure the engine is off and cool.

Fluids. Check the levels of oil, coolant, brake fluid, power steering fluid and windshield washer fluid. With the engine running at normal temperature and the transmission in "Park," check the automatic transmission fluid level.

Hoses. Look for cracks, loose connections and signs of wear in the radiator, heater and air condi-

tioner hoses, as well as the vacuum hoses and fuel lines.

Belts. Check for frayed edges, cracks, splits or looseness.

Electrical system. Check the fluid level of the battery if possible. See if battery cables are clean and tight. Look for loose wire connections or worn insulation. Be sure all lights and gauges are functioning properly, inside the vehicle and out.

Air conditioner. Recharge the air conditioner by running it for a few minutes. This is important in months when you aren't normally using the unit.

The Seasonal Inspection

In the spring and fall, be prepared for climate changes by having a professional check the following:

Tires. Look for abnormal or excessive wear. Align wheels or replace tires if needed. Rotate tires. Mount or remove snow tires. Make sure your jack works.

Cooling System. Check coolant and hoses. Add fluid if necessary. Drain and flush the radiator.

Battery. Test the charge and fluid level (if possible).

Windshield wipers. Check for proper movement. Replace worn blades.

Heater, defroster. Make sure the heater and defroster operate properly.