



## GETTING YOUR CAR READY FOR SUMMER CHECKLIST

### CLEAN THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR

- ✓ Go through a car wash or wash your car thoroughly yourself.
- ✓ Empty your car of trash and anything that isn't essential.
- ✓ Get a full car detail. (optional) Cost: about \$100
- ✓ Gently clean any bugs off your windshield and lights with a wet rag.

### ASSESS THE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM

- ✓ Get a professional to fully inspect your air-conditioning.
- ✓ Test your air-conditioning yourself. Turn it all the way up, see how it runs on its coldest settings.

### CHANGE THE OIL

- ✓ Check your manual to see how often you need to change your oil and oil filter for your car specifically.
- ✓ Be sure to dispose of oil properly.

### TEST THE BATTERY

- ✓ Take your battery to a mechanic to get properly tested (most mechanics will do it for free!)
- ✓ Clean your car batteries (be sure to research how to do this safely!)
- ✓ Check your battery's fluid levels monthly.

### LISTEN TO THE BRAKES

- ✓ Listen to your brakes. Observe how your car responds when you brake suddenly.
- ✓ Good brakes don't make noise; they respond the same way, regardless of when you press them. If you feel or hear anything off, get your brakes checked and fixed immediately.

### CHECK THE TIRES

- ✓ How's the pressure on your tires? Add pressure if necessary.
- ✓ Make sure you have a good spare tire and a jack.
- ✓ Rotate your tires if they need rotating (every 5,000 miles or so)
- ✓ Check the tread on your tires in several spots on each tire by placing a penny upside down in the groove. If you can see Lincoln's entire head including his hair, it's time for new tires!
- ✓ Educate yourself on how to drive safely through a tire blowout.

## INSPECT THE COOLING SYSTEM

- ✓ Prevent overheating: flush and refill your cooling system every 24 months. Set a calendar reminder on your phone so you don't forget!
- ✓ Check coolant levels, making sure the liquid level is hitting the FULL line. If it isn't hitting that line, add enough 50/50 mix of water and coolant to get it there.

## RUN THE ENGINE

- ✓ Start up your engine and listen to it. Hear any weird sounds? Does it start up quickly and smoothly or does it hesitate? Take note of any irregularities or weaknesses. A faulty engine will typically sound or act abnormally.
- ✓ Per the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, "Replace other filters (air, fuel, PCV, etc.) as recommended more often in dusty conditions. Get engine drive-ability problems (hard starts, rough idling, stalling, diminished power, etc.) corrected at a good shop."

**Drive safe!**

**If you need a tow this summer, you know who to call!**



### FULTONDALE

1620 Carson Road, Birmingham, Alabama  
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**205-631-8697**

### HAYDEN

198 Lester Doss Road Warrior, Alabama  
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