

YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO A BASIC VEHICLE CHECK



1. START WITH A CLEAN CAR

A clean vehicle makes it easier to spot issues. Review essential areas—tires, lights, fluids, brakes, and more. Regular upkeep helps ensure safety and reliability on the road. Drive with confidence.



2. INSPECT THE OUTSIDE

Check tires for uneven wear, bulges, or damage and set the correct air pressure. Test all exterior lights. Look over the windshield for chips or cracks and replace wipers if needed.



3. CHECK UNDER THE HOOD

Use the dipstick to check engine oil. Confirm coolant level and inspect brake, power steering, and transmission fluids. Top up as necessary and watch for signs of leaks or other problems.



4. REVIEW THE INTERIOR

Start the engine and look for any warning lights. Test features such as A/C, heater, and wipers. Ensure gauges (speedometer, fuel, etc.) are working as they should.



5. EXAMINE BELOW THE VEHICLE

Check the exhaust system for rust, holes, or damage. Listen for unusual noises and look for any fluid leaks under the car, such as oil, coolant, or brake fluid.



6. CHECK THE BRAKES

Inspect brake pads through the wheel spokes for wear. Test the brake pedal at low speed—it should feel firm and steady. Squealing, grinding, or vibration may mean it's time for service.



7. TAKE IT FOR A DRIVE

Drive at varying speeds and listen for strange sounds such as squeaks, rattles, or thumps. Evaluate steering response and handling to ensure a smooth, comfortable ride.



8. KEEP A RECORD

Write down any issues, repairs, and maintenance performed. A detailed log helps track your car's history and makes mechanic visits more efficient.

