



[www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org)

## CAR CARE CHECKLIST

# WHAT TO CHECK AND WHEN

### CHECK FREQUENTLY

- Dashboard Indicator Lights On
- Lights
- Tire Inflation and Condition
- Windshield Washer Fluid
- Engine Oil Level

### CHECK EVERY 3 MONTHS/ 3,000 MILES

- Automatic Transmission Fluid
- Battery and Cables
- Belts
- Dashboard Indicator Light On
- Engine Air Filter
- Engine Oil
- Exhaust
- Hoses
- Lights
- Power Steering Fluid
- Tire Inflation and Condition
- Windshield Washer Fluid

### CHECK EVERY 6 MONTHS/ 6,000 MILES

- Automatic Transmission Fluid
- Battery and Cables
- Belts
- Chassis Lubrication
- Dashboard Indicator Light On
- Engine Air Filter
- Engine Oil
- Exhaust
- Hoses
- Lights
- Power Steering Fluid
- Tire Inflation and Condition
- Windshield Washer Fluid
- Wiper Blades

### CHECK EVERY 9 MONTHS/ 9,000 MILES

- Automatic Transmission Fluid
- Battery and Cables
- Belts
- Dashboard Indicator Light On
- Engine Air Filter
- Engine Oil
- Exhaust
- Hoses
- Lights
- Power Steering Fluid
- Tire Inflation and Condition
- Windshield Washer Fluid

### CHECK EVERY 12 MONTHS/ 12,000 MILES

- Automatic Transmission Fluid
- Battery and Cables
- Belts
- Brakes
- Cabin Air Filter
- Chassis Lubrication
- Coolant (Antifreeze)
- Dashboard Indicator Light On
- Engine Air Filter
- Engine Oil
- Exhaust
- Hoses
- Lights
- Power Steering Fluid
- Steering and Suspension
- Tire Inflation and Condition
- Wheel Alignment
- Windshield Washer Fluid
- Wiper Blades

The Car Care Council has developed a service interval schedule with general guidelines for the regular maintenance of passenger cars, minivans, pick-ups and SUVs. This schedule is customary for the majority of drivers and vehicles. However, always consult your owner's manual for specific recommendations from your vehicle manufacturer.



# TOP 10 FUEL SAVING TIPS

- 1 Check Tire Pressure:** Proper tire pressure can improve gas mileage by 3.3% or ten cents per gallon. Tire pressure should be checked at least monthly, including the spare. Tires that are not properly inflated add rolling resistance, making the engine work harder.
- 2 Perform Regular Maintenance:** Improve gas mileage by 4% on a proper tune-up and up to 40% when fixing a serious maintenance problem such as a faulty oxygen sensor.
- 3 Check the Air Filter:** Filters can become clogged with dirt, dust or bugs, which choke off the air and create a "rich" mixture that causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a dirty filter will improve performance and acceleration.
- 4 Check the Fuel Cap:** A loose or cracked gas cap allows gas to escape from your tank as a vapor, wasting fuel and increasing vehicle emissions.
- 5 Use the Correct Motor Oil:** Using the correct motor oil for your vehicle can improve gas mileage by 1% -2%. Look for oil that says "energy conserving".
- 6 Don't Drive Aggressively:** Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can reduce gas mileage as much as 33% on the highway and 5% on city streets. Using cruise control on the highway can help you maintain a constant speed.
- 7 Drive the Speed Limit:** Most cars lose fuel efficiency over 50 miles per hour (mph). Each 5 mph over 50 is like paying an additional \$0.23 per gallon of gas.
- 8 Avoid Unnecessary Aerodynamic Drag:** Hauling cargo on the vehicle roof decreases fuel economy anywhere from 2% -25%. Roof racks also add extra weight and drag. Remove cargo and accessories when not in use.
- 9 Lighten the Load:** Unnecessary items increase gas usage. An extra 100 pounds could reduce mpg by 2%. Smaller vehicles will see more of an effect than larger vehicles.
- 10 Avoid Excessive Idling:** When a car is idling it is using fuel, but not going anywhere. This translates to 0 mpg. Idling can use a quarter to half gallon of fuel per hour.

[www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org)