

Road Trip Safety Check List

Stock the car

- _____ Water (to drink, plus extra for filling the engine, or cleaning hands or messes)
- _____ First Aid kit and hand sanitizer
- _____ Tire Change kit, something to kneel on
- _____ Jumper cables, flashlight, travel-size multi-tool, window scraper, small shovel
- _____ Blankets

Use the right child seat

- _____ Use the right car seat or booster, use it until your child has grown out of it height and weight-wise even if this is longer than strictly required.
- _____ Make sure your seat is installed correctly. A surprisingly large number aren't.
- _____ Have your kids take off bulky or puffy coats; they keep straps from being as tight as they ought to be. For very little ones use a fleece that's made for car seats. For older kids keep blankets in the car.

Keep yourself informed

- _____ If your car is overdue take it for routine service. Have them check battery, spark plugs, water, oil, windshield wiper fluid and anti-freeze.
- _____ Check the traffic and weather where you are and where you're going.
- _____ Check your tire pressure, especially around the change of seasons and if you are driving between zones with significantly different temperatures.

Know when to park and wait

- _____ Switch drivers every 2 to 3 hours so no one gets road fatigue.
- _____ If you've only one driver pull over and let her have a cat nap when she's feeling tired.
- _____ When the weather is too bad – be it summer rain, thunderstorms or winter snow and ice—just wait it out.
- _____ If you are sitting in your car in snowy or icy weather and plan to keep the motor running, make sure the tail pipe is clear of ice, snow or mud. Exhaust fumes can find their way into our car surprisingly quickly.