

Summer Car Care Checklist

Five quick checks to keep your vehicle running cool and reduce the risk of a summer breakdown — from the Metro Detroit agency that protects what matters most.

Michigan heat is tough on cars. Use this checklist before your next road trip, or run through it once a month all summer long to stay ahead of costly repairs and roadside surprises.

COOLANT SYSTEM

- ☐ Check coolant level is between min/max lines
- ☐ Look for leaks under the car after parking
- ☐ Confirm radiator cap seals tightly
- ☐ Watch the temperature gauge on drives
- ☐ Schedule a flush if coolant looks rusty

AIR CONDITIONING

- ☐ Test that air blows consistently cold
- ☐ Replace a dirty cabin air filter
- ☐ Listen for odd noises when AC is on
- ☐ Have refrigerant checked if airflow is weak
- ☐ Run the AC briefly each week, even in mild days

SHADE & INTERIOR

- ☐ Park in shade or use a windshield sunshade
- ☐ Crack windows slightly for airflow
- ☐ Never leave kids or pets in a parked car
- ☐ Keep a phone charger and water in the car
- ☐ Wipe down dash and seats to prevent fading

TIRES

- ☐ Check pressure monthly (heat raises PSI)
- ☐ Inspect tread depth and even wear
- ☐ Look for cracks or bulges in sidewalls
- ☐ Don't forget the spare tire
- ☐ Rotate tires per manufacturer schedule

BELTS & HOSES

- ☐ Inspect belts for cracks or fraying
- ☐ Check hoses for soft spots or bulges
- ☐ Look for coolant residue near hose clamps
- ☐ Replace belts showing glazing or wear
- ☐ Have a mechanic test belt tension yearly

BEFORE A ROAD TRIP

- ☐ Check all fluid levels, not just coolant
- ☐ Confirm roadside assistance coverage is active
- ☐ Pack an emergency kit and extra water
- ☐ Verify your auto policy is up to date
- ☐ Save your agent's number in your phone

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