

Tech Article: Preparing for the Driving Season

by Jim Vickery

Over the years there has been a checklist developed of things you may want to check on your car before starting the driving season. I realize that it seems pretty extensive however do what you feel comfortable with and have someone else do the rest. Most of the list can be done using jack stands and a creeper. Quite a bit of this list is from various articles written by John Twist, some from my personal experiences and some from other club members experiences.

Items to check under car:

- Tire-wear, pressure, age
- King pins for wear
- Tie rod ends for wear
- Fulcrum pin bushings for wear
- Steering boots for cracks
- Alignment
- Steering box oil
- Front Brake pads
- Calipers for leaks
- Rear brake shoes
- Brake cylinder for leaks
- Rear axle seals for leaks
- Rear brake adjustment
- Emergency brake cable
- Emergency brake adjustment
- Brake lines - metal
- Brake lines - rubber
- Clutch line - rubber
- Clutch slave cylinder for leaks
- Rear end oil level
- Transmission oil level
- Oil leaks - engine, trans, rear end

Items to check under hood:

- Engine compression
- Engine timing
- Points (if fitted)
- Spark plug condition
- Lifter adjustment
- Lifter travel
- Oil level
- Clutch fluid level
- Clutch master cylinder for leaks
- Brake fluid level
- Brake master cylinder for leaks
- Coolant fluid level
- Radiator for signs of a leak
- Condition of hoses
- Condition of belts
- Carburetor adjustment

Items to check inside car:

- Clean battery connections
- Note battery age

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