

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAR MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Ready and safe for the year



Tires

- ☐ **Check Tire Pressure:** Ensure tires are inflated to the recommended PSI (found in your car's manual or on the driver's side doorjamb).
- ☐ **Inspect Tire Tread:** Look for uneven wear, bulges, or embedded objects. Use a penny to check tread depth (if you can see all of Lincoln's head, it's time for new tires).
- ☐ **Rotate Tires:** Rotate your tires according to your vehicle's maintenance schedule to ensure even wear and extend their lifespan.

Lights

- ☐ **Headlights:** Verify that both headlights are working properly and are aimed correctly.
- ☐ **Taillights and Brake Lights:** Check that taillights and brake lights illuminate when the brakes are applied.
- ☐ **Turn Signals and Hazard Lights:** Ensure all turn signals and hazard lights are functioning correctly.
- ☐ **Interior Lights:** Test interior lights to ensure they illuminate when doors are opened and can be switched on manually.

A/C

- ☐ **Check Coolant Level:** Ensure the coolant level is within the recommended range.
- ☐ **Inspect Hoses and Belts:** Look for cracks, leaks, or damage to hoses and belts related to the cooling system.
- ☐ **Test A/C Function:** Turn on the A/C and verify that it blows cold air. If not, have the system inspected for leaks or other issues.

Wipers

- ☐ **Inspect Wiper Blades:** Check wiper blades for cracks, tears, or stiffness. Replace if necessary for optimal visibility.
- ☐ **Test Wiper Function:** Ensure wipers move smoothly across the windshield and clear water effectively.
- ☐ **Check Washer Fluid:** Refill washer fluid reservoir to ensure adequate supply for cleaning the windshield.

Brakes

- ☐ **Check Brake Pads:** Inspect brake pads for wear and thickness. If they are thin or worn, replace them promptly.
- ☐ **Inspect Brake Rotors:** Look for grooves, cracks, or warping on brake rotors. Resurface or replace rotors as needed.
- ☐ **Test Brake Function:** Ensure brakes engage smoothly and effectively. Listen for unusual noises during braking.

Paperwork

- ☐ **Registration:** Verify your vehicle registration is current and valid.
- ☐ **Insurance:** Ensure your insurance policy is up-to-date and provides adequate coverage.
- ☐ **Inspection:** Check if your vehicle requires a safety or emissions inspection and ensure it is completed on time.

Summary

Completing this Back-to-School Car Maintenance Checklist will help ensure your vehicle is ready for the demands of the school year. Prioritizing these checks contributes to a safer and more reliable driving experience for you and your family. Safe travels!

