

Planning an Extended Trip

Preparing the Vehicle

Have your vehicle serviced about two weeks before going on a long road trip. This will allow you time to be sure your vehicle is functioning correctly before you leave.

Vehicle checks should include:

- tires — inflation, balance, alignment, condition of tread and sidewalls;
- brakes for wear and/or adjustment;
- windshield wiper blades and all lights; and
- engine compartment — tune-up (if applicable), oil change, lubrication and filters, hoses, belts, brakes, radiator and windshield wiper fluids.

Even though you have serviced your vehicle, it is always a good idea to have basic and emergency equipment in the car. **Be prepared.** An unexpected breakdown can happen anytime with little or no warning. Examples of a breakdown include a blown radiator hose, a flat tire, a broken headlight, etc.



Basic Equipment

- Maps with routes marked.
- Flashlight, first-aid kit, screwdriver, pliers, adjustable end wrench, and socket set
- Jack, spare tire, lug wrench, wheel blocks, and battery jumper cables.

Emergency Equipment (Depending On Weather)

- Tow line, gloves, Mylar blanket, radiator coolant, and windshield wiper fluid.
- Water to drink, high energy food, and fruit.
- Window scraper, chains, and warm clothing.

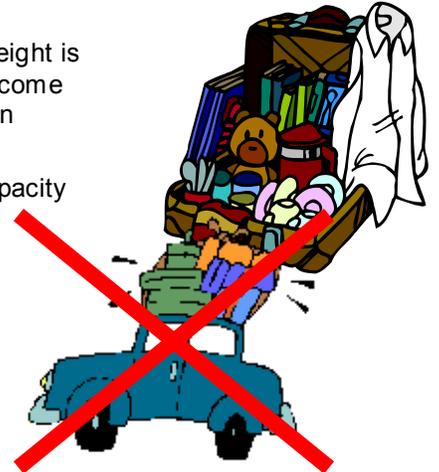


Spare Tire & Jack

Loading Considerations

Proper loading of your vehicle is an essential safety consideration. When a lot of weight is added to a vehicle it changes the way it responds. An improperly loaded car will become especially difficult to handle in an emergency maneuver or high winds. Use common sense and don't over pack the vehicle. Here are some guidelines that will help.

- Distribute weight evenly throughout vehicle. **DO NOT OVERLOAD.** (Load capacity is basically 150 lbs. per belted seating position plus 125-175 lbs. for luggage; check your owner's manual for additional information.)
- Store soft items only within the passenger compartment, i.e., pillows and/or blankets.
- Car-top carriers raise the vehicle's center of gravity, which adversely affects braking and steering.



Personal Preparation

You have prepared your vehicle, planned your trip, packed the car and now you need to make final preparations. Some information and travel items you may want to bring with you will include:

- coins for tolls and telephone calls (if you do not have a cell phone or your cell phone cannot get a signal);
- a map with your route clearly marked out (know where you are going and plan your routes in advance);
- a list of emergency telephone numbers for roadside assistance (if you have a membership), motor and travel clubs, road and weather reports;
- information about road construction projects along planned routes;
- telephone numbers for the accommodations you have reserved (in case you need to alter a reservation);
- the maximum number of miles to be traveled daily; and
- if crossing a desert area, plan to do so during the cooler morning hours.

Trip Precautions

If you are the only person who will be driving, use good judgement and do not exceed six to eight hours of driving in any single day. If you plan to share the driving with one or more persons, the total driving time should not exceed 10 to 11 hours. Be aware of your circadian rhythm “down time” between one and five p.m., and plan to take a break during that period.

When traveling on a major highway you will travel on average about 100 to 110 miles every two hours. Plan to take 10 -15 minute breaks every two to three hours and one-hour stops for meals. When traveling on secondary roads which go through towns and cities or through mountainous terrain, due to the slower speeds and more hazardous conditions it will take you more time.

Since two out of three traffic fatalities occur a night, avoid driving after dark when visibility is limited, and particularly after 11 p.m., when you are more apt to fall asleep while driving.

- Let a family member or trusted friend know how to reach you in an emergency.
- Be prepared to pay any large repair bill in the event of a vehicle breakdown.
- Determine approximate cost of fuel, meals, lodging, and entertainment.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before you start the trip.

Items to Take

- An extra set of keys.
- Insurance information.
- Money for expected and unexpected travel expenses.
- Vehicle owner's manual.
- Maps of local areas you plan to visit.



Make every Trip a Safe and Memorable One!

Before beginning any trip, know the current weather forecast and road conditions.

For information 24-hours-a-day, visit the Ohio Department of Transportation website for highway and road conditions. <http://www.ohgo.com>