

The car maintenance checklist

Every recurring job a typical gas car needs, system by system, with how often to do it. Print it, save the PDF, or let Tagwell Auto remind you by date and by miles.

These are typical intervals for a gas car in normal use, not your owner's manual. Your manual wins. Where a job lists miles and months, do it at whichever comes first.

Whole vehicle

- ☐ Check washer fluid, coolant and brake fluid levels every month
- ☐ Look under the vehicle for leaks every month

Engine and oil

- ☐ Check the oil level every month
- ☐ Change engine oil and filter (full synthetic) every year or 7,500 mi
- ☐ Replace engine air filter every 2 years or 20,000 mi
- ☐ Inspect serpentine belt and hoses every 2 years or 30,000 mi
- ☐ Replace spark plugs (iridium) every 100,000 mi

Transmission and drivetrain

- ☐ Change transmission fluid (automatic) every 60,000 mi

Brakes

- ☐ Brake inspection (pads, rotors, lines) every year or 12,000 mi
- ☐ Flush brake fluid every 3 years

Tires and wheels

- ☐ Clean and protect the wheels every month
- ☐ Rotate tires every 6 months or 6,000 mi
- ☐ Check tire pressure, including the spare every month
- ☐ Wheel alignment check every year
- ☐ Check tread depth (penny test) every 3 months
- ☐ Check the spare, jack and locking lug key every year

Suspension and steering

- ☐ Inspect suspension and steering every year

Battery and electrical

- ☐ Test the 12V battery every year
- ☐ Clean battery terminals every year
- ☐ Check key fob batteries every 2 years

Cooling

- ☐ Replace coolant (long-life) every 5 years or 100,000 mi

Heating and AC

- ☐ Replace cabin air filter every year or 15,000 mi

Lights

- ☐ Walk-around: lights, signals, brake lights and reverse every month
- ☐ Clean the headlight lenses every 6 months

Wipers and glass

- ☐ Clean the glass inside and out every month
- ☐ Check the wiper blades every 3 months
- ☐ Replace wiper blades every year

Body and paint

- ☐ Wash the exterior every 2 weeks
- ☐ Wax or seal the paint every 3 months

Interior

- ☐ Empty the trash and clutter every week
- ☐ Vacuum the interior every 2 weeks
- ☐ Wipe the dash and touch surfaces every 2 weeks
- ☐ Clean the floor mats every month

Safety gear and emergency kit

- ☐ Test the horn, parking brake and seat belts every 6 months
- ☐ Check the first aid kit every 6 months
- ☐ Restock the emergency kit every year

Documents and compliance

- ☐ Check for recalls every 3 months
- ☐ Back up the service records every 3 months
- ☐ Renew insurance every 6 months
- ☐ Renew registration every year
- ☐ Review the insurance policy and shop rates every year