

Complete Car Maintenance Checklist

Monthly Checks

Task	What to Do	Notes
Engine Oil	Check level and color	Change every 5,000–7,000 miles
Coolant (Antifreeze)	Ensure between min/max marks	Add only recommended coolant type
Brake Fluid	Verify level and clarity	Low fluid may indicate worn pads
Power Steering Fluid	Check and top up	Look for leaks around reservoir
Windshield Washer Fluid	Fill up as needed	Essential for visibility
Tire Pressure	Check with gauge	Adjust to manufacturer PSI
Lights	Test headlights, brake, and turn signals	Replace any dim bulbs
Wipers	Inspect for cracks or streaks	Replace if skipping or squeaking
Leaks	Check under car for drips	Identify color to spot fluid type

Every 6 Months

Task	What to Do	Notes
Oil & Filter Change	Replace both	Use manufacturer-specified oil
Battery Inspection	Clean terminals, check corrosion	Replace if over 3 years old
Air Filter	Inspect and replace if dirty	Improves fuel efficiency
Tire Rotation	Rotate front to back	Promotes even wear
Brakes	Inspect pads and rotors	Replace if thinning or noisy
Cabin Air Filter	Replace	Keeps interior air clean
Handbrake	Test on incline	Should hold car firmly

Annually

Task	What to Do	Notes
Coolant Flush	Replace with fresh mix	Prevents overheating and corrosion
Spark Plugs	Inspect or replace	Worn plugs affect performance
Full Inspection	Visit mechanic for complete check	Includes belts, hoses, suspension
Suspension & Shocks	Inspect for wear	Replace if bouncy or uneven ride
Transmission Fluid	Flush and refill	Keeps gears shifting smoothly

Seasonal Maintenance

Season	Task	Notes
Spring/Summer	Check A/C, wash & wax, coolant level	Protect from heat and UV
Fall/Winter	Install winter tires, test battery, check antifreeze	Prepare for cold and snow

Long-Term Maintenance (Every 12–24 Months)

Task	What to Do	Notes
Brake Fluid Replacement	Replace completely	Maintains braking performance
Transmission Flush	Service as recommended	Extends transmission life
Timing Belt / Chain	Check at 60,000–100,000 miles	Prevent catastrophic engine failure
Wheel Alignment & Balancing	Adjust if uneven wear	Ensures smooth handling

Record Keeping

Date Service Performed Mileage Mechanic / Shop Notes