

# DIY SPRING CAR MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST



## WIPERS

### Top Off Washer Fluid

### Replace Worn Wiper Blades

Inspect your wiper blades. Replace if the frames are bent, the rubber is frayed and worn, or if they squeak, chatter, or skip spots on the glass.

To replace:

1. Lift the wiper arm off the windshield at a perpendicular angle.
2. Locate the hook, pin, or clip-on mount attaching the wiper blade to the arm and release the locking mechanism.
3. Slide the used blade off the wiper arm.
4. Slide the new blade onto the arm and activate the locking mechanism to fasten it in place.

## FLUIDS

### Check Engine Coolant

*With a cool engine, parked on flat ground:* Pop open your hood and locate the coolant reservoir. If your fluid is low ("L") on the markings on the side of the reservoir, add the type of coolant specified in your car owner's manual.

### Check Transmission Fluid

*With a warm engine and your car idling on flat ground:* Remove the dipstick from the transmission fluid reservoir and wipe it with a clean rag. Replace fully, then remove again for a fluid level reading.

If it's "Minimum" or "Cold," slowly add vehicle-appropriate transmission fluid with a funnel. Recheck the levels with a clean dipstick as you go until you reach "Maximum" or "Hot."



**No dipstick for transmission fluid?** Check your owner's manual to confirm that you have a sealed transmission, which requires a technician to check.

**Is the fluid grimy, gritty, dark brown or black?** Is there a distinct burned odor? Time to call a technician to change your fluid.

### Check Brake Fluid

*With a cool engine, parked on flat ground:* Locate your brake fluid reservoir on your engine's master cylinder — usually positioned toward the rear of your engine on the driver's side.

Look for the indicator lines on the side of the reservoir that show minimum and maximum fluid levels. If your brake fluid is well below maximum levels, add more vehicle-appropriate brake fluid.

### Check Power Steering Fluid

*With a warm engine, but the car off, parked on flat ground:* Locate the power steering fluid reservoir, which will be close to one of your front wheels. If the reservoir is plastic, check the indicator levels on the side of the tank.

If the reservoir is metal or opaque, use the dipstick attached to the cap. Clean it off with a clean rag, then reinsert into the reservoir fully. Remove again for an accurate reading. If fluid levels are "cold" or "minimum," add vehicle-appropriate fluid slowly with a funnel, checking levels with a clean dipstick as you go.



**No reservoir?** EVs and some smaller, lighter, newer gas-powered cars don't use power steering fluid. Check your owner's manual to confirm.

Fluid should be translucent with a pink or amber hue. If it's dark brown or black, it may be contaminated. Consult a technician to replace the fluid.

## TIRES

### ☐ Check Tire Tread Depth

Stick a penny into your tire's grooved tread line with the head upside-down and facing you. Do you see all of Abraham Lincoln's head? If so, your treads are worn down too low and it's time for new tires.

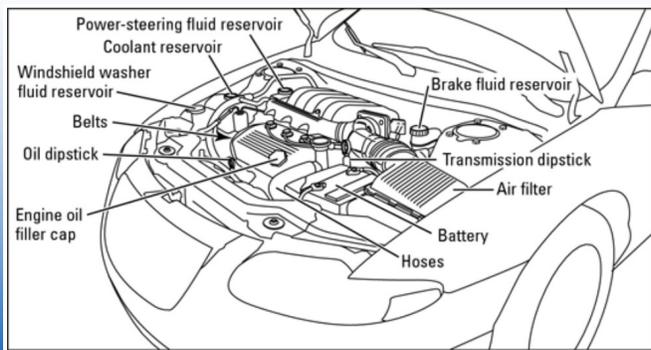
### ☐ Check Tire Pressure

Remove the valve cap, connect a tire pressure gauge to the valve stem, and record the reading. Check your owner's manual for tire pressure specifications; most fall in the range of 28–36 pounds per square inch (PSI). Add or remove air, as necessary.

## LIGHTS

### ☐ Check All Lights

Include: headlights, brake lights, backup lights, turn signals and interior lights. Consult your owner's manual for instructions on replacing any burned-out bulbs.



# RESERVOIR LOCATOR

CREDIT: *AUTO REPAIR FOR DUMMIES*,  
2ND EDITION, DEANNA SCLAR

### What You'll Need:

- Funnel(s)
- Clean rags
- Tire pressure gauge
- Disposable gloves (optional)

### As Needed:

- [PEAK® Windshield Wash](#)
- [PEAK® Wiper Blades](#)
- [PEAK® Antifreeze + Coolant](#)
- Transmission fluid
- Brake fluid
- Power steering fluid
- [PEAK® replacement bulbs and headlights](#)

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