

glove box GUIDE TO ROAD READINESS

When it comes to road safety, you can't control other drivers or road conditions, but one thing you can control is proper maintenance of your vehicle and tires. To help you remember what to check and when, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has put together six simple tips to help you stay safe on the road. **Keep this handy tip sheet in your glove box so you can refer to it when you need it!**

AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH:

1. CHECK YOUR TIRE TREADS

Hold a penny with Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger

Place Lincoln's head first into the deepest-looking groove

Can you see all of his head? If yes, your tires are too worn – don't drive on them and get them replaced

2. CHECK YOUR TIRE PRESSURE

Open your vehicle door and on the inside jamb you should see a sticker – write down the number that says "PSI" (the measurement for tire pressure)

Use the pressure gauge to check your tires (make sure you check when they are cold)

Compare the number on the gauge to the number you wrote down. If above, let air out of your tires, if below, inflate until the numbers match

3. CHECK YOUR BRAKE LIGHTS

Turn on your vehicle

Have a friend or parent stand behind the vehicle

Step on the brake pedal

Does your friend or parent see both lights? If not, you should replace the bulb or fuse. If you don't know how, get a professional to do it

4. CHECK YOUR WINDSHIELD WIPERS

Windshield wiper blades need to be replaced periodically to ensure optimum visibility

Replace them at least yearly if you live in a sunny/hot or cold region, and twice a year if you live in a dusty or dry region

Clean wiper blades periodically with a rag or alcohol wipe to maintain their performance

5. CHECK YOUR FLUIDS

OIL: Open the hood of your vehicle **COOLANT:** Open the hood of your vehicle

Find the oil dipstick, remove it and wipe it down with a rag or paper towel

Put back the dipstick – make sure you push it in as far as it will go

Pull out the dipstick again – if the film of oil does not reach the markings, add more oil

Check your vehicle's driver manual to see how often you should replace your oil

Find the coolant tank – that is usually next to the radiator

If the coolant doesn't reach the "minimum" fill line. Fill it with a coolant/water solution (the ratio for this will be in your vehicle's driver manual)

WARNING: Never open the radiator cap on a hot vehicle! Wait until the vehicle has cooled down first

6. CHECK THE WEATHER

Before you set out for your destination:

Call 511, download the NDDOT Travel Information app or go to the Travel Information Map website:

www.dot.nd.gov/travel-info-v2

Position yourself 10 inches away from the steering wheel to allow a safe distance in the event that your airbag deploys. Measure 10 inches from the center of the steering wheel to your breast bone.

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