



Home Maintenance

Outdoor Tasks:

- Prune trees and shrubs.
- Remove lint from dryer exhaust vent with a long, flexible brush.
- Uncover and clean central air conditioner.

Indoor Tasks:

- Change or clean heating, ventilating and air conditioning filters. Consult manufacturer instructions for your furnace to determine when you need to change filters.
- Clean kitchen appliances inside and out, including refrigerator coils.
- Maintain clean drains by adding a half-cup of baking soda followed by a half-cup of white vinegar. After 10 minutes, flush with boiling water.
- Drain or flush water heater.

Summer Travel

Stay Safe

The COVID-19 outbreak in U.S. continues to evolve. Different areas may have different guidelines. Check with the Centers for Disease Control or [state or local authorities](#) to learn any local guidance/restrictions that may be in place.

Engine Oil:

- Check oil levels and the date you're due for an oil change.
- Consider a synthetic motor oil. If you're traveling in hot weather or pulling a trailer, a fully synthetic engine oil can give you the extra protection against thermal breakdowns that you need.

Transmission & Differential Fluids:

- Check your owner's manual for transmission fluid and drive axle fluid change intervals. They are quite a bit longer than engine oil. Oil-change shops can handle the job of changing manual transmission oil and the differential oil.

Hoses:

- Look first at where both the input and output radiator hoses attach to the engine and to the radiator. The extra stress on the hose from the pipe collar and hose clamp means they typically crack and fail there first.
- Check your heater hoses, which run from the engine (usually near the thermostat housing) into the firewall and back. Look for bulges or blisters, which indicate a weakness in the hose wall.

Belts:

- Check the engine belts by turning them sideways with your hand so you can see the friction surface. If they're at all ragged, torn, cracked or showing the fiber cords, it's time for fresh ones.

Engine Coolant:

- Check levels to make sure you are full before you leave home.

Tire Pressure & Tread:

- Check tire pressure – the number on the tire is the maximum amount of pressure the tire can hold and, if combined with extreme heat and speeds, could lead to a blowout.
- Look at the tread on tires. Is it excessive or uneven? Most new tires come with about 10/32" of

tread depth. If your tire tread-depth shows less than 2/32", it's time for new tires. Measure with a penny. If the depth is below Lincoln's shoulder, it's time to purchase new tires.

Brake System:

- Check your brake reservoir for the color of the fluid, and make sure that it is topped up to the "full" mark.

Battery:

- Check that the terminals are corrosion-free and the positive and negative leads are tight. If your starter sounds sluggish, it's either corrosion or a dying battery.

Lights:

- Don't get pulled over! Make sure you take the time to replace headlights that are burned out.

Safe Summer Fun Maintenance

- Boat & Jet Ski Care – Get them cleaned, waxed, and checked for holes or rips in the cover are always important things to check.
- Safety Equipment – After you've checked out the status of your boat for the summer, be sure that you are stocked up on equipment you need for safety. Life jackets, safety tubes, and water floating materials are always important before setting sail this summer.
- Beach Maintenance – Do you have a cottage on the beach? Remember to give it a good raking every once in a while to clear sharp objects that may have found their way into the sand.