

# Car Service Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

- Monthly**
  - Tire Pressure** Depending on the weather, tires will either expand or contract, so check their pressure and add air if necessary.
  - Tires** Look for things like uneven tread wear, thin spots or bulges and do something about them, quickly.
  - Belts** Every car has belts that should be checked on a regular basis, to check for fraying and breakage.
  - Hoses** Sometimes hoses will burst, become brittle or rot, so check them on a monthly basis.
  - Antifreeze** Also called coolant, check the level and add to it if it's low.
  - Air Filter** Check this and if needed, replace.
- Every Three Months**
  - Oil Changes** Without regular oil changes, the car engine can be negatively affected in many ways, so do this every 3 months or 3,000 miles, whichever comes first.
  - Batteries** Check and clean the terminals and cables if they are corroded.
  - Brake Fluid** Brakes do have a fluid level, so check it, and add to it if necessary.
  - Steering Fluid** Again, a simple, easy thing to do; add to it if it's low.
  - Transmission Fluid** One of the most important things to keep your car running, be sure to keep this at the proper level.
  - Windshield Washer Fluid** Seeing out of the window so that you don't wreck is important, so keep this filled up in case of bugs, muddy rain or other problems.
- Every Six Months**
  - Brakes** Note if they are starting to slip, or show any signs being worn down.
  - Brake Lights** Ensure that these can be seen at any time of day, by anyone.
  - Exhaust** Look for visible holes, cracks, or parts that are not tight.
  - Headlights** Double-check that the brightness, both standard and bright levels, are actually correct.
  - Horn** Does it work correctly, or does it need some help?
  - Shock Absorber** Determine whether there are any leaks, visible damage, or if they are too loose.
  - Spare Tire** First, ensure that there is a spare; then, double-check that the spare is correctly inflated for use, if it is needed.
  - Turn Signals** Ensure that the lights work on the inside, and the outside of the vehicle.
  - Wiper Blades** These do wear out, tear apart, and even rot, so replace them regularly
- Yearly**

- Tuneup** Going through the car, system by system to make sure each one is working properly will save you money in the long run.
- Seasonally** Check the AC in the spring, and the heat in the fall.
- Alignment / Rotation** Have your tires rotated and the steering aligned yearly.
- Every Five Years**
  - Battery** Consider replacing the battery, if it hasn't already been done.
  - Electrical** If electrical components in the car itself don't work correctly, this will effect the battery, and the entire car, so have it completely checked out.
  - Air conditioning** While even the best air conditioners work for a long time, they still need to be re-done occasionally.
  - Radiators** Tied into keeping the car cool, along with the air conditioning, radiators do need a thorough going over, and occasional replacing.