

Colchester IAM Group

**SUMMER DRIVING
CHECKLIST**

Summer Driving Checklist

Before you go on a long drive, you will benefit from going through the items on the following checklist, especially if your car only normally covers short or local journeys.

Hopefully by checking these items before you travel, you will have a trouble free journey, arrive on time and stress free.

Summer Driving Checklist

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Check you have enough fuel for your journey.

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Check your oil level while the engine is cold and the car is on a level surface. Top up with the correct oil if required.

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Check tyre tread depth. The legal limit is 1.6mm but 3mm minimum is recommended for good grip in the wet.

Check the tyre side walls for cuts, splits or cracks.

Check the tyre pressures are correct.

And don't forget to check the trailer or caravan tyres too.

Check if your car has a spare wheel, if it does check that it is legal and inflated correctly, and that you have a jack, wheel brace and wheel lock nut key if fitted.

If you only have a puncture repair kit supplied, familiarise yourself on how to use it and its limitations.

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Check the coolant level and top up with the correct fluid if necessary.

Check for any leaks – a small amount of water under your car may be from the air con system and is normal.

If your car has an electric radiator cooling fan, check that it is working correctly.

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Check all lights are working and replace any bulbs that are not working.

Don't forget the trailer or caravan lights, and make sure they are connected correctly and working.

You may need to get help to check that your brakes lights are working.

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- ⦿ **S** is for **Screen Wash**

Check your screen wash and top up with the correct fluid. Make sure the screen washer jets are clear and working to help keep a clear vision.

Check your front and rear windscreen wipers are in good condition, and replace if damaged, or are leaving streaks or smears.

Summer Driving Checklist

A Couple of Other Things Worth
Remembering

Summer Driving Checklist

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- ⦿ Your sun visor may not always help, so keep a pair of sunglasses in the car. Category four sunglasses are illegal to wear while driving as they let less than eight per cent of light through the lenses. Sunglasses must be labelled in the UK to show the 'filter category number'. Category four should be labelled 'not suitable for driving and road use'.

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- ⦿ Avoid variable tint lens sunglasses for driving, because modern car windscreen glass filters out UV rays - so the tint on these glasses that becomes darker when exposed to sunlight will not work.

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- ⦿ Battery issues arise due to increased stop-start activity, not just in traffic, but more short journeys when people are at holiday destinations.
- ⦿ A lot more demand is placed on the battery and the alternator in situations where the whole family is loaded up on long journeys, often in slow traffic with an increased number of entertainment devices plugged in, such as phones, tablets, gaming, dvds, satnavs and more.
- ⦿ What's more, if you're crawling in slow traffic, the car's electrical system may not be generating enough power to replenish this battery drain.

Summer Driving Checklist

SatNav and Map

- ◉ When was the last time you updated your satnav? You should really do it every three to six months, as road layouts can change and new developments and roads are being built or altered all the time. It's also important to do so before a big trip – you may be able to download maps for foreign countries too.
- ◉ If you have the manual handy, it will take you through the process of updating your maps. If not, head to the manufacturer's website for instructions and downloads. You may need to register first, so have your device's serial number handy.
- ◉ You'll also need a USB connector for your device – if you've lost yours you should be able to find a replacement on the manufacturer's website or by searching online.
- ◉ If your satnav is built into your car, check the car handbook for update instructions.
- ◉ It is also a good idea to take an up to date paper map to cover your journey, in case you encounter problems with your satnav, such as poor signal.

Summer Driving Checklist

Your car handbook should give all the information you need to carry out the procedures on the checklist.

If you do not know how to do some of the checks ask a friend or professional.

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Things to take in the car

- ⦿ A first aid kit
- ⦿ A warning triangle
- ⦿ A high visibility vest/jacket
- ⦿ A fire extinguisher
- ⦿ Jump leads
- ⦿ A new empty fuel can
- ⦿ Additional engine oil and water (for topping up)
- ⦿ A light bulb kit
- ⦿ A fully charged mobile phone and ideally an in-car mobile phone charger
- ⦿ Take plenty of water and refreshments and take regular breaks
- ⦿ Take sun cream in case you breakdown, especially abroad
- ⦿ If you have children, take some games to play in the car during the journey
- ⦿ Take extra supplies of medication, you may not be able to get them if you're abroad