

# Car Rental Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

- Before You Rent a Car
  - Talk to your insurance agent to verify what coverage you have when renting a car.
  - Talk to your road service provider to see if they cover service calls on rental cars.
  - Tuck a small flashlight into your carry-on bag.
- At the Rental Car Counter
  - Ask the representative how they know the car you're renting has completed its prerenal maintenance check.
  - Ask the representative what to do if the car breaks down.
  - Ask the representative what will happen if you lose the car key.
  - Ask for any phone numbers to call should the car get stuck or break down.
- At the Car
  - Take a walk around ; ensure there's no obvious damage.
  - Make sure the license plates are current.
  - Look at the tires for inflation, good tread, and even tread wear.
  - Get in and check the cleanliness and smell of the car.
  - Check the odometer.
  - Check the lights.
  - Spray the windshield to ensure that the washer system works and the wipers are in good shape.
  - Ensure that there's an owners manual in the glove box.
  - Do under-hood and under-trunk inspections.
  - Check the trunk for a spare tire, jack and lug wrench.
  - Open the hood and check the fluids.
  - Get in and familiarize yourself with the cockpit.
  - Adjust the seats and mirrors.
  - Drive the car inside the rental lot before taking to the open road.
- When You Drop Off the Car
  - Check mileage.
  - Check gas gauge.

- Locate your cell phone, eyeglasses, wallet, and briefcase.
- Check on and under front and back seats.
- Check the trunk.
- Check glove and storage compartments.
- Inspect the car for damage.