

# Vehicle Inspection Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

- Preparation**
  - History** Know the history of your vehicle, whether it's been in one wreck or eight.
  - Paperwork** Bring in current paperwork from last inspection.
  - Maintenance** Proof of maintenance needs to be brought in to the inspection as well.
  - Schedule** Make sure to go to the vehicle inspection on time.
- Equipment**
  - Tools** Proper tools to take apart the vehicle for testing as needed.
  - Lubricants** Used to loosen nuts and bolts that can't be easily removed during the inspection.
  - Mats** Placed securely on the floor to let vehicle inspectors climb under the vehicle.
  - Lifts** Used to place the vehicle up in the air for an under-body inspection.
  - Scales** These ensure that the vehicle is in the right class, and should not be changed from one class to another.
  - Towels** Needed for inspectors to clean off hands, and various areas of vehicles as they go along.
  - Checklists** Inspectors must have these to check off each thing as passed or failed.
  - Tags** Different places have varying charges for tags or plates that will have to be affixed to your vehicle.
- Things to Take**
  - Proof of insurance** Proof that a recurring policy has actually been paid is useful as well.
  - Receipts** Show receipts for miscellaneous items, such as mats, that inspectors will ask for.
  - Identification** Driver's license and registration to vehicle to prove who you are.
  - Payment** Be sure to remember the proper form of payment required, vehicle inspections are not free.
  - Patience** Vehicle inspections take time, so be patient.
- Safety Issues to Consider**
  - Tires** Perhaps it is time to consider replacing them, if the tread is less than fifty percent because tire blowouts are no fun.
  - Headlights** They do burn out, sometimes causing crashes, so replacing them on your own is a good idea.
  - Seat belts** These do sometimes wear thin, or actually break, so replace them if needed.
  - Oil** Top off before going in, but be sure to mop up any spills that could cause smoking.
  - Brakes** If these start to squeak at all, it's time for a trip to the shop so that your fellow drivers don't get hit because you can't stop.

- Transmission** Keeping this maintained, and filled with fluid is a serious safety issue so it doesn't stop the engine from running, and cause a crash.
- Fenders** These need to be properly attached, and not hanging towards the ground.
- Muffler** Contrary to popular belief, driving around with a hole in the muffler is not safe, and will not pass an inspection.
- Air Conditioning** Because the human body overheats easily, and sometimes windows just don't work, it is imperative that the air conditioning works properly.
- Windows** It is a must that windows work safely just in case something happens, and passengers can't get out the doors.