

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.