

What Do I Need To Do Before I Hit The Road For Vacation?

If you decide to travel this summer be sure to check your car over carefully - You do not need to become a roadside casualty.

Some things to check include windshield washer fluid, tire pressure, and tire condition.

Another thing that could go bad is your alternator or battery since traveling in the heat and cranking up your air conditioning can put a drain on the system. Make sure your cables are clean and tight and if the battery is more than five years old, replace it.

There are other tell-tale signs your car may not be fit for travel, especially under the hood. One belt drives everything, your alternator, your power steering, your water pump - so if you lose that belt, you've lost everything.

Hoses, radiators and even power-steering fluid are all important. A good rule of thumb: If no one has looked under the hood since the last time you took a trip...it is time. It is very important to keep up on the preventative maintenance.

Some shops offer summer travel specials, where they will fill all your fluids and check the belts and tires and tell you what needs to be replaced.