

Road Trip Tips

Preparing for a road trip is more than remembering to pack sunscreen or your skis, it starts with making sure your vehicle is road worthy before you leave and being prepared for an emergency once you're on your way. Follow these safety guidelines and you'll be ready for your next road trip during any season.

- **Preventative Maintenance:** In addition to the tire inspection and maintenance, windshield and wiper inspection and maintenance we've already discussed; you want to check your oil, coolant and other fluids. Don't forget to check your battery and connections as winter and summer driving present their own hazards to your car's battery. Top up your fluids and check the operation of all your interior and exterior lights and signals. If you aren't comfortable doing this yourself most neighborhood gas and repair stations can help you with routine inspections which will include the above items. If you aren't sure ask them to run through the list of their inspected items and ask them to include any additional items that aren't part of a routine inspection. Make sure your car is in good working order and get that rattle or squeak looked at before you set out. This will help prevent situations that could have been avoided with a simple trip to your local garage or dealership service department.
- **Be prepared for the unexpected:** Road trips are different from your normal routine so sometimes it's easy to leave your headlights on or get a flat tire on an unfamiliar road. A well-stocked roadside emergency kit will help you out of trouble or help you get assistance if you're stranded. Some important items to include in your kit are booster cables, air compressor, tire gauge, warning triangle, cone or light, a flashlight or headlamp and first aid kit. If you're traveling in winter make sure your kit includes items like a shovel, gloves, ice scraper, snow brush, traction mats and hand warmers. There are a lot of emergency kits on the market and choosing the right one for you, your driving style, road conditions and comfort level with working on your car is important. Some safety kits also come with a free roadside assistance program, looking for one of these kits helps to make sure that if you're in a situation the kit can't help you out of, there's a back-up plan in place so you're not stranded. If your safety kit contains items that operate on batteries remember to check and change them frequently and keep a spare set on-hand. Test electronic items like flashlights, digital tire gauges and inflators regularly and before road trips and remember to replace or replenish any necessary items.
- **Plan ahead:** While you're mapping out your route, take note of nearby service centers, dealerships and gas stations. If you have a GPS you can preprogram these spots along your route so you can perform tire checks, windshield checks and top-ups along the way. It's also a good idea to travel with spare fluids like windshield wash, oil and coolant, depending on your route you can't assume you'll always be near a store or service center if you run into trouble.
- **Emergency planning:** No one expects to be in extreme or dangerous conditions but planning for them can help make sure they aren't the end of your road trip. Items like a multi-tool, fire extinguishers, safety hammers, seatbelt cutter, tire repair kit, a jack, spare tire and a few

blankets can get you on your way faster, keep you warm and safe until help arrives or in extreme cases save your life or someone else's.

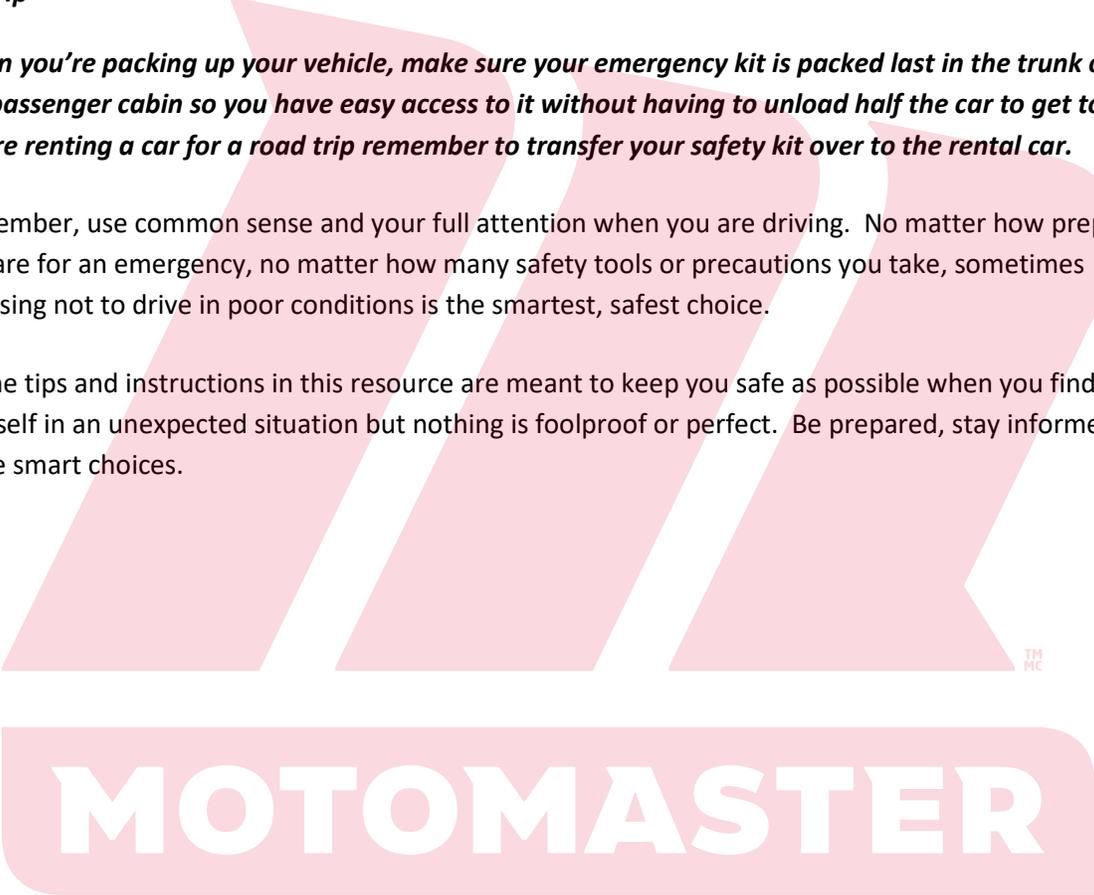
- **Communication:** Make sure you speak to someone about your travel plans at your departure or arrival point and arrange for check-ins at routine intervals if it's a long trip. If you get lost or stranded without cell signal or in a remote area, having someone aware of your travels plans increases your chances of being found if you need help. If you have a cell phone, travel with your charging cable and extra power supply (if your car battery dies you won't be able to keep your phone charged!)

Pro-Tip

When you're packing up your vehicle, make sure your emergency kit is packed last in the trunk or in the passenger cabin so you have easy access to it without having to unload half the car to get to it. If you're renting a car for a road trip remember to transfer your safety kit over to the rental car.

Remember, use common sense and your full attention when you are driving. No matter how prepared you are for an emergency, no matter how many safety tools or precautions you take, sometimes choosing not to drive in poor conditions is the smartest, safest choice.

All the tips and instructions in this resource are meant to keep you safe as possible when you find yourself in an unexpected situation but nothing is foolproof or perfect. Be prepared, stay informed and make smart choices.

The logo features a large, stylized, light pink graphic of the letters 'M' and 'R' in the background. Below this graphic is a white rounded rectangular box containing the word 'MOTOMASTER' in bold, white, uppercase letters. A small 'TM' symbol is visible to the right of the 'R' in the background graphic.

MOTOMASTER