

PRE-TRIP VEHICLE SAFETY CHECKLIST

A two-minute walk-around can reveal problems before they become emergencies.

Do not drive: If you find a serious tire defect, fluid leak, brake or steering problem, unsecured load, critical warning light, or impaired visibility, correct it or get qualified help first.

WALK AROUND THE VEHICLE

- ☐ **Clear the area.** Look for children, pedestrians, pets, low objects, fresh leaks, or damage around and under the vehicle.
- ☐ **Inspect the tires.** Check cold pressure against the driver-door placard - not the tire sidewall. Look for cuts, bulges, punctures, uneven wear, and low tread; include the spare if equipped.
- ☐ **Check lights and lenses.** Verify headlights, brake lights, taillights, turn signals, hazards, and license-plate lights. Clean dirty lenses.
- ☐ **Check glass and visibility.** Clean windows, mirrors, cameras, and lights. Inspect the windshield and confirm wipers and washers work properly.
- ☐ **Look for loose or damaged parts.** Confirm doors, hood, trunk or hatch, fuel or charge door, roof cargo, trailers, and exterior accessories are secure.

BEFORE SHIFTING INTO DRIVE

- ☐ **Secure every occupant.** Adjust your seat and mirrors. Buckle every passenger and verify child restraints are appropriate and correctly installed.
- ☐ **Secure cargo.** Keep heavy objects low and restrained. Nothing should obstruct pedals, steering, mirrors, windows, or air-bag areas.
- ☐ **Read the dashboard.** Confirm fuel or charge is adequate and critical warning lights go out after startup. Investigate unfamiliar alerts before driving.
- ☐ **Check controls.** Test the horn, brakes, steering feel, defroster, ventilation, and parking brake in accordance with the owner's manual.
- ☐ **Check the driver.** Do not drive if you are impaired by alcohol, drugs, medications, illness, fatigue, intense emotion, or distraction.

BEFORE A LONG TRIP

- ☐ **Review maintenance and recalls.** Address overdue service and open safety recalls. Check the battery, cooling system, belts, hoses, brakes, and applicable fluid levels.
- ☐ **Plan conditions and stops.** Review weather, road conditions, charging or fuel availability, rest breaks, and an alternate route.
- ☐ **Carry a roadside kit.** Include a charged phone, charger, first aid kit, flashlight, warning devices, water, and vehicle-appropriate tools.