



Trail Tips

When getting ready to go out on a trail ride, whether it is a leisurely scenic drive on a dirt road or a challenging 4 x 4 trail, it is very important to inspect your vehicle and be prepared. There are minor things that can be found during an inspection that can make your trip safe and fun, as well as saving yourself some time, money and headaches.

Keep the vehicle properly maintained by a qualified technician who *knows* your vehicle. Let the technician know that you use the vehicle off-road and to check it over thoroughly.

Here is a basic inspection checklist that you can do before hitting the trail:

Check all fluid levels and inspect for any leaks of the following:

- engine oil
- transmission fluid
- Transfer case
- Differentials
- brake fluid
- power steering fluid
- clutch hydraulic fluid
- coolant

Check the Belts, Hoses, Motor Mounts, and make sure the battery is secure in its mounting. Look for anything that is not secure under the hood that could come loose on a rough road. Check to make sure all the lights and horn work.

Tires:

- Check tire condition (abnormal wear / tread) and tire pressure
- Check your spare tire too
- Be sure to carry a jack, lug wrench, and a locking lug nut key that works

Steering/suspension:

- Steering linkage and gear box - make sure all is tight and cotter pins are in place
- Inspect suspension and shocks – make sure all bolts are tight and bushings are in good shape

It is also highly recommended to have a good first aid kit, extra water, snack food, blankets, a map of the area, sunscreen, tow strap, basic tool kit, jumper cables, and a small shovel.

Plan your trip ahead of time and get familiar with the area. Have a great time and enjoy the great outdoors.