

Car Emergency Kit Checklist

Your vehicle can be both a sanctuary and a trap in an emergency. This checklist ensures your car is ready for roadside emergencies, unexpected breakdowns, or natural disasters that may force you to shelter in place or travel long distances.

Safety & Visibility

- Reflective triangle or road flares
- LED safety light or hazard beacon
- Reflective vest and bright flashlight
- Whistle or emergency signal device

Vehicle Tools & Repair

- Jumper cables or jump starter pack
- Tire repair kit and air compressor
- Tow strap and duct tape
- Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, wrench)
- Folding shovel or traction aids (for snow/mud)

Power & Communication

- Car charger and power bank
- Battery-powered radio
- Emergency contact list (paper copy)

Food, Water & Warmth

- Water bottles or pouches (rotate seasonally)
- Food bars or snacks (non-melting, non-perishable)
- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Gloves, hand warmers, knit cap

Paperwork & Navigation

- Copy of insurance and registration

- Local/state maps (paper)
- Pen, notepad, emergency numbers

Optional Additions

- Poncho or rain gear
- Trash bags or emergency toilet kit
- Change of clothes and socks
- Small first aid kit

Tips & Hints:

Keep your kit in a plastic bin or soft-sided bag in the trunk.

Adapt this list for winter conditions, long commutes, or travel with children or pets.

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