

Stock the car for roadside emergencies



Weather should be considered when preparing vehicle emergency kits, which should include the following.

- A properly inflated spare tire and tire-changing equipment
- Jumper cables
- A multipurpose utility tool and/or tool kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Flares or triangle reflectors
- An extra quart of motor oil
- A first-aid kit containing at the least, gauze, tape, bandages, antibiotic ointment, aspirin, nonlatex gloves, scissors, hydrocortisone, thermometer, tweezers, and instant cold compress
- A blanket
- A tire pressure gauge
- A portable tire inflator
- Paper towels
- Nonperishable, high-energy foods
- Drinking water
- A reflective vest
- Duct tape
- A fire extinguisher
- An ice scraper
- A folding shovel
- Coolant and washer fluid
- A phone charger
- Baby/child supplies, if pertinent
- Rope

Disasters can happen in a flash, and having a plan in place for common emergency situations can make it easier to handle adverse conditions, particularly when away from home.

According to MFASCO Health and Safety, a supplier of first aid supplies and kits, 90 percent of people do not carry first aid supplies or other emergency gear in their vehicles. Among those who may carry supplies, 30 percent never check to determine if they're in good working order. The National Safety Council says that drivers should always keep emergency supply kits in the trunks or cargo areas of their vehicles. Kits should be inspected every six months, and worn out items should be replaced. Roadside emergency kits can make the difference between getting back on the road safely or being stranded for hours. Such kits also may help prevent or treat injuries, potentially saving lives. Keep roadside emergency kits organized at all times. Store items securely in a milk crate, box or backpack so they are always readily available. People should familiarize themselves with the items in the kit so they know how to use them correctly and quickly. With some planning and organization, drivers can have the supplies they will need to make it through roadside emergencies safely.

Did you know?

Self-driving cars might once have seemed like a futuristic concept that may never come to fruition, but the future is now. In 2018, Waymo, once known as the Google self-driving car project, launched its commercial self-driving car service in Phoenix. While it's not widely available and safety protocols, including the presence of human safety operators behind the wheel, are in place, Waymo has made it possible for people to pay for self-driving car rides. Tech industry insiders note that Google's fellow tech giants, including Apple and IBM, also are working on self-driving car services. And much like many things in the tech industry, the self-driving car market figures to evolve rapidly, making it seem as though the availability of self-driving cars became widespread overnight. However, today's self-driving vehicles are the byproduct of years of research and sizable financial investments. For example, a little more than a decade ago, Darpa, the experimental laboratory of the Pentagon, hosted the Urban Challenge at an Air Force base in Southern California. At that event, which was one of a handful sponsored by the United States military, several driverless vehicles traversed real traffic conditions. That showcase was an integral component of the foundation of the modern self-driving car industry.

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