

Common sense items to keep in your car

In the glove box. . . .

1. Cellular phone and car charger. Written copy of emergency numbers, including your insurance company. Cellphones can be damaged in the event of accident or inconveniently lose charge when needed and you may need to borrow someone's phone.
2. Disposable flash camera for when a cell phone camera is not available
3. Small flashlight – waterproof is a bonus.
4. Pair of latex gloves and hand cleaner
5. Pen and pad of paper
6. Small basic First-aid kit - bandaids Full control
7. Spare fuses and knowledge of how to install them
8. Tire gauge
9. LED warning lights -- small, inexpensive and can be placed on dash or in back window.
10. \$20 in small bills and coins
11. Protein or energy bars - change them out frequently, if not eaten regularly. Don't "save" them as they are convenient and save impulse stops for food when running errands. Do, however, replenish the supply as needed so that there are always 3 or 4 available.
12. Have some bottled water available. Keep two or three bottles stashed under the seat or in cupholders and replenish as they are used. Replenish supplies when you return home and you will be more likely to remember than you will if you wait until the next trip.

For long distance driving –small duffel bag in trunk

1. Basic tools – include Phillips and flat head screwdriver, pliers, multipurpose tool, adjustable wrench, pocket knife. Small tool sets are also available at reasonable cost.
2. Coolant hose repair kit and tape
3. Lightweight safety yellow vest to increase your visibility if you need to be outside your vehicle. Available at car parts stores.
4. Nonperishable emergency food.
5. Small tarp or two large garbage bags to lay on the ground before working on your car
6. Disposable work suit (available where painting supplies are sold)
7. Small ponchos for rain protection or wind break
8. Tire inflator. Also know where the jack and tire changing tools are kept.
9. CB radio if you are driving in an area where cellphone or GPS reception is poor
10. Children's supplies, if you travel frequently with youngsters
11. Blanket and pillow – more than one if you frequently have passengers. I keep ours folded on the floor of the back seat and use them often to protect the seat when hauling garage sale finds, Costco purchases, and other things that don't fit in the trunk.
12. We've also added picnic supplies for convenience as we frequently picnic when traveling – plastic tableware, matches, hand wipes, paper towels. Also consider such things as compass, mirror, whistle, cable ties, bungee cords and other items that could attract attention and help or be useful "off the beaten path".