

# *PBL's Real Cars*

## **Daily and Weekly Car Inspections:**

**Commercial bus and truck drivers perform what is called a daily Pre-trip inspection so that the drivers catch any issues before heading out on the road. When used properly, it can prevent accidents, increase safety, limit downtime, and get to their destinations on time.**

**Unlike commercial vehicles, it is not required by law to perform pre-trip inspections for passenger cars.**

**We at PBL's Real Cars put safety first. If you would like to participate in performing the following daily pre-trip and weekly inspections in your own cars for the same reasons – to prevent accidents, increase safety, limit downtime, and get to your destinations safely, you may download or print out this information for yourself, your friends and loved ones.**

**Scroll down for inspection sheets.**

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## **Daily Pre-Trip Inspection:**

### **Engine Compartment:**

**Engine Oil** – Dipstick shows oil at operating level.

### **In Car Inspection:**

**Wipers** – Check the wipers are working and wiper blades in tact.

**Horn** – Be sure your horn works properly, it can prevent you from a collision in many cases.

**Rear View Mirror** – Clean, secured and adjusted for you.

**Side mirrors** - Confirm mirrors are clean, free of damage and adjusted for your driving position. Adjust Mirrors if needed.

**Wipers** - Operational, wiper blades in tact.

**Heater / Defroster** – Check the controls are working.

**Seatbelts** - Check the seatbelts and mechanisms are working properly.

**Gauges** - Check they indicate normal operating temperatures / pressures.

**Gauges / Warning Lights** - Confirm no warning lights are on. If there are, check with your mechanic and address the issue.

**Windshield** – Check for any damages - no chips / cracks that impair your visibility.

### **Walk Around Inspection:**

As you walk around your car, look for any signs of damage ( Door dings, scrapes and scratches, loose wheel covers, etc.) Look underneath for any fluid leaks on the ground.

**License Plate(s)** - Check license plate(s) they are firmly attached, visible.

**Tires** - Visually check proper inflation, check the sidewalls for cuts and bulges. Don't worry about fine surface cracks. Check lug nuts or wheel nuts, they are fastened and secure, none are missing.

**Headlights** - Check hi-beams, low-beams and fog lights that they are working.

**Tail Lights** - Check that the taillights are working.

**Turn Signals** - Check both the front and rear signal lights are working.

**4-Way Flashers** - Check 4-ways (emergency flashers) are working.

**Lights & Reflectors** – During the winter, clean all lights from ice & snow. Clean road salt from all the lights with a shop rag.

**Engine Sounds** - Listen for any unusual sounds (pings, rattles, knocks, etc).

**Service Brake** - As you leave your garage or parking spot, and before you enter traffic, gently apply your brakes to confirm they are operating as they should.

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## **Weekly Inspection:**

### **Engine Compartment -**

**Antifreeze/Coolant** - Check the antifreeze/coolant level. **Caution:** Do not remove the pressure cap when engine is hot. If a refill is needed, fill with a 50/50 mix of water and antifreeze. Warning > Antifreeze/coolant is toxic to children and animals.

**Battery** - Confirm battery is securely mounted; ensure battery terminal connections are tight (tug test) and check for signs of corrosion; confirm battery mount is secure.

**Belts** - With the engine off and cool, check the engine belts for signs of cracked rubber. The belts are tight and secure.

**Hoses** - With the engine off and cool, even though it's recommended that you check the hoses monthly, while your checking the belts, check the hoses as well. Check for cracks, frays, leaks and bulges, especially at the ends where they are attached. If a hose looks bad, or feels too soft or too hard, it should be replaced.

**Power Steering Fluid** - Check fluid level.

**Brake Fluid** - Check level

**Transmission Fluid** - Check transmission fluid level.

**Windshield Washer Fluid** - The reservoir should be full.

### **Other:**

**Tires** - Tire Pressure - use tire gauge, check the tire pressure on each tire. Make sure your tires have enough tread and don't have any bald spots.

**Lights** - Check your back-up lights to confirm they're working. To check, have someone look for you.

**Roadside Emergency/ First Aid Kit** - Check for expiration dates and replace items as they expire.