For most cars, SUVs, minivans and pickups

Check the box and write the date and mileage each time. Items marked "mechanic" need a shop; the rest you can check yourself.

Every month

- [ ] **Check tire pressure**
  With the tires cold, use a tire gauge (gas stations have air). The right number is on the sticker inside the driver's door, not on the tire.
  When: every month
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Look at your tires**
  Penny test: put a penny in the groove with Lincoln's head down. If you can see all of his head, the tire is worn out. Bulges, cracks or nails: see a tire shop.
  When: every month
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Check all lights**
  Park near a wall or window at night and look at the reflection, or ask someone to watch while you press the brake.
  When: every month
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Top up washer fluid**
  Open the hood, find the cap with a windshield symbol, and fill it with washer fluid (not water in winter).
  When: every month
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Check the engine oil level** — Gasoline, Diesel, Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid
  Engine off and cool: pull the dipstick, wipe it, push it back, pull again. Oil should be between the two marks. Some newer cars show the level on the dashboard instead.
  When: every month
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Look over the charging cable and port** — Electric, Plug-in hybrid
  Look for cuts, burns or bent pins and keep the port cover closed. Stop using a damaged cable.
  When: every month
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

Every 3 months

- [ ] **Look at the coolant level**
  Only when the car is cold: find the see-through coolant tank and check the level is between MIN and MAX. Never open it hot. If it keeps dropping, see a mechanic.
  When: every 3 months
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

Every 6 months

- [ ] **Check the wiper blades**
  If they streak, squeak or the rubber is cracked, replace them. Parts stores can help you pick the right size.
  When: every 6 months (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Keep the hybrid battery air vent clear** — Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid
  Check your owner's manual for where it is. Keep bags and pet hair away from it and vacuum the grille.
  When: every 6 months (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Oil change (mechanic)** — Gasoline, Diesel, Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid
  Follow your car's oil-life reminder or owner's manual if it has one; the reminder here is general. A quick-lube shop or mechanic can do it.
  When: every 6 months or every 5,000 mi (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Tire rotation (mechanic)**
  Ask for it with your oil change or at a tire shop. Your manual may list a different interval.
  When: every 6 months or every 6,000 mi (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

Every year

- [ ] **Brake inspection (mechanic)**
  Ask a mechanic for a brake check once a year, or sooner if you hear squealing or grinding.
  When: every 12 months or every 12,000 mi (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Test the 12-volt battery (mechanic)**
  Many parts stores and mechanics test it free in a few minutes. Test it every year, especially before winter.
  When: every 12 months (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Engine air filter (mechanic)** — Gasoline, Diesel, Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid
  It is often easy to check yourself; a shop can replace it in minutes. Your manual may list a different interval.
  When: every 12 months or every 15,000 mi (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Cabin air filter (mechanic)**
  Usually behind the glove box; many owners change it themselves with a video for their car.
  When: every 12 months or every 15,000 mi (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

By mileage (see your owner's manual)

- [ ] **Brake fluid change (mechanic)**
  Many manufacturers suggest every 2 to 3 years (general guidance). Check your owner's manual and ask your mechanic.
  When: every 36 months (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Transmission fluid (mechanic)** — Gasoline, Diesel, Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid
  Intervals vary a lot by car, and some are "lifetime". Your owner's manual has the right answer; add it in My Garage to get reminders.
  When: See your owner's manual
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Spark plugs (mechanic)** — Gasoline, Hybrid, Plug-in hybrid
  Your owner's manual lists when (often a high mileage). Add it in My Garage to get a reminder.
  When: See your owner's manual
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Timing belt (if your engine has one) (mechanic)** — Gasoline, Diesel, Hybrid
  Check your manual or ask a mechanic whether your engine has a belt and when to replace it.
  When: See your owner's manual
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Coolant change (mechanic)**
  Long-life coolants can last many years; your owner's manual has the interval.
  When: See your owner's manual
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

- [ ] **Diesel fuel filter (mechanic)** — Diesel
  Your owner's manual has the interval; some trucks also have a water separator to drain.
  When: See your owner's manual
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

Before winter

- [ ] **Get ready for winter**
  Test the battery, check tire tread (consider winter tires), replace worn wipers, use winter washer fluid and keep a blanket, scraper and phone charger in the car.
  When: every 12 months (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

Before summer

- [ ] **Get ready for summer**
  Make sure the air conditioning blows cold, check coolant and tire pressure, and keep water in the car on long trips.
  When: every 12 months (general guidance)
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

When something seems wrong

- [ ] **Diesel exhaust fluid (DEF), if your truck uses it** — Diesel
  Refill when the dashboard warns you. DEF is sold at gas stations and parts stores; the blue cap is usually next to the fuel cap.
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **A warning light comes on (mechanic)**
  Look it up in your owner's manual. A flashing check-engine light or a red oil or temperature light: stop safely and call for help. Many parts stores read check-engine codes free.
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Squealing, grinding or a soft brake pedal (mechanic)**
  Get the brakes checked soon. Grinding or a pedal that sinks: drive as little as possible and see a mechanic right away.
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **The car pulls to one side or shakes (mechanic)**
  Check tire pressure first. If it still happens, a tire shop or mechanic can check alignment and balance.
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____
- [ ] **Puddles under the car or strange smells (mechanic)**
  Note the color (brown/black oil, green/orange/pink coolant, red transmission fluid) and tell your mechanic. Smell gasoline strongly: do not drive, call for help.
  Date _____ Mileage _____ Notes _____

Service log

Date	Mileage	Service performed	Shop	Cost / notes