Basic Car Maintenance Checklist

Five minutes once a month, with the car parked on level ground and the engine cold. Tick each box as you go.

Vehicle: _____ Year: _____ Tire pressure (door jamb): F ____ R ____ psi

Check	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Check tire pressure, spare included (cold) Use the number on the driver door jamb, with tires cold.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Check tread depth and tire condition Penny test for 2/32 in, quarter test for 4/32 in. Look for bulges and uneven wear.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Check all exterior lights Headlights, brake lights, turn signals, hazards, plate light.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Check oil, coolant and washer fluid levels Engine off, level ground. Look under the car for drips.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Inspect wipers and washers Cracked rubber or streaks mean new blades. Test the washer spray.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Dashboard warning light check at startup All lights should go out after start. A flashing check-engine light means stop driving soon.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Frequent and yearly services (write the date or mileage when done)

Service	Interval	Done (date / mi)	Done (date / mi)	Done (date / mi)
Engine oil and filter	7,500 mi / 1 yr			
Rotate tires	6,000 mi / 6 mo			
Brake inspection (pads, rotors, lines)	6,000 mi / 1 yr			
Brake fluid	3 yr			
Battery test	1 yr			
Wiper blades	6 mo			
Wheel alignment check	1 yr			

Notes: noises, leaks, warning lights, tire wear, parts to buy

Typical intervals for a modern gasoline car. Your owner's manual wins where it differs.