



Car Emergency Kit Essentials

Prep your vehicle for whatever the road throws at you

Universal Emergency Kit (for Every Driver)

A baseline kit that works for any daily-driver passenger vehicle.

Safety & Survival

- First-aid kit (bandages, antiseptic, pain relievers, tweezers)
- Reflective triangles or road flares
- Flashlight or headlamp (with extra batteries)
- High-visibility safety vest
- Emergency blanket / space blanket
- Drinking water (bottles or pouches)
- Non-perishable snacks (e.g., energy bars)

Car Basics

- Jumper cables or a compact jump-starter
- Tire pressure gauge
- Portable tire inflator
- Basic tool kit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench)
- Duct tape & zip ties
- Work gloves
- Multi-tool
- Tire repair kit (plugs)

Convenience

- Phone charger (12V and cable)
- Cash (small bills)
- Pen and notepad
- Umbrella or poncho

Off-Road / Overlanding Emergency Kit

Designed for people who might be far from pavement or services.

Recovery Gear

- Recovery straps (kinetic rope recommended)
- Shackles (soft shackles preferred for safety)
- Shovel (folding or full-size)
- Hi-lift jack or off-road jack system
- Traction boards
- Tire deflators
- Onboard air compressor

- Snatch block (if using a winch)
- Winch + controller (if installed)

Navigation & Communication

- Offline GPS / maps
- Compass
- Two-way radios / GMRS radio
- Satellite communicator (Garmin inReach, Zoleo)

Mechanical & Survival

- Engine oil, coolant, spare belts
- Spare fuses
- Full-size spare tire (not a donut)
- Extra fuel (approved jerry can)
- Fire extinguisher
- Water filtration device or purification tablets
- Extra layers/shelter: tarp, paracord, blanket, emergency sleeping bag

Electric Vehicle Emergency Kit

EV drivers have unique needs – charging, tire repair, and thermal management.

Charging-Related

- Portable EV charger (Level 1)
- Extension cord (heavy gauge)
- NEMA adapter set (if traveling to unknown charging environments)
- Charging-station app list saved offline
- Spare RFID cards for networks (Electrify America, EVgo, ChargePoint)

Energy & Safety

- Tire repair kit (sealant + compressor – crucial since many EVs lack spares)
- Thermal blanket to help manage cabin temps if power is low
- Portable power bank for devices

General EV Maintenance

- Gloves and insulated tools for minor safe tasks
- Screen wipes for infotainment
- Extra washer fluid (EVs use it more due to camera systems)

Winter / Cold-Climate Drivers

For regions with snow, ice, and extreme cold.

Cold-Weather Essentials

- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Traction aids (cat litter, traction mats, or sand)
- Shovel (compact snow shovel)
- Tire chains (if legal/appropriate)
- Heated blanket (12V)
- Chemical hand warmers
- Extra hat, gloves, socks

Vehicle Protection

- Windshield de-icer spray
- Battery jumper pack (cold kills batteries faster)
- Lock de-icer

Drivers With Young Kids

Emergency prep looks a bit different if you're traveling with children.

Kid-Focused Items

- Extra diapers / wipes
- Snacks and water
- Spare clothes for kids
- Emergency medication (children's pain reliever, etc.)
- Entertainment items (small books, cards)
- Blanket

Safety

- Window shades
- Backup phone battery (to keep maps/kid entertainment going)

Long-Distance / Road-Trip Drivers

For the driver who spends many hours in the car.

Convenience & Comfort

- Travel pillow & blanket
- Cooler with snacks
- Refillable water bottles
- Phone mount & multi-port charger
- Paper atlas (for no-signal zones)

Car Protection

- Full toolkit
- Spare belts and key fuses
- Extra fluids (unless EV)
- Tire repair and inflator kit

Drivers With Pets

Good for people who regularly travel with dogs/cats.

Pet-Specific Items

- Water and collapsible bowl
- Leash & spare collar
- Seat cover or pet carrier
- Waste bags
- Pet first-aid items: styptic powder, tick remover
- Extra food

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