

Vehicle Maintenance

For many employers and employees, having a safe, reliable vehicle is an essential part of conducting business. Work vehicles must be well-maintained in order to meet legal requirements as described in the Highway Traffic act and associated regulations. Vehicle manufacturers specify maintenance activities and schedules that must be completed to avoid voiding the warranty. Most importantly, drivers need a vehicle that is equipped and maintained to meet on-the-job expectations, and does not fail in a way that causes or contributes to a motor vehicle incident. Check out pages in this section for helpful information and tools to help you plan and implement an effective vehicle maintenance plan for cars and light-duty trucks and vans.

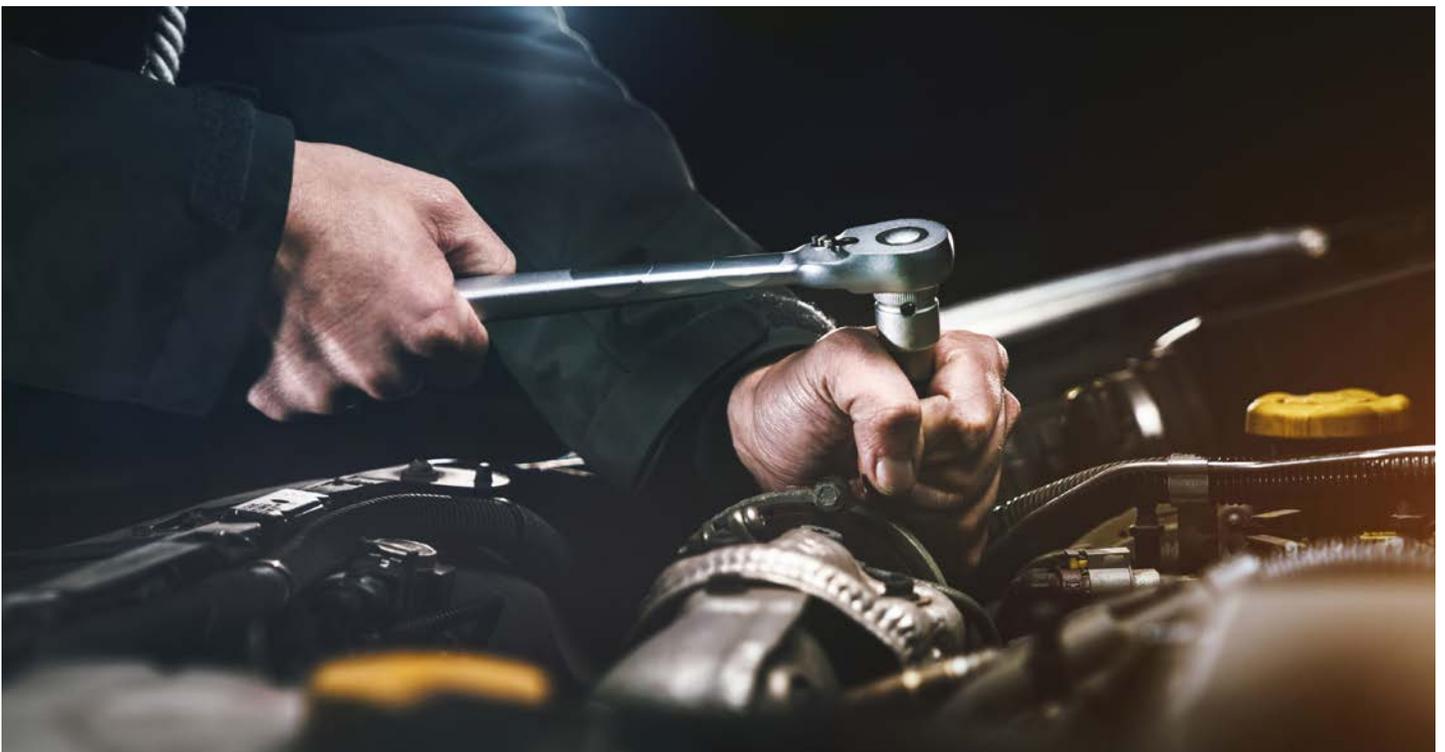
AutoCheck

AutoCheck is a quick reference table that identifies key vehicle components, and describes how often you should expect they will require maintenance attention. In the table, each component name is hyper-linked to a “how to” video or other helpful resource.



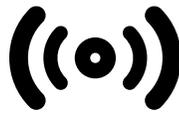
Find Your Vehicle Owner's Manual

The Owners Manual that came with the vehicle you operate contains essential operation and maintenance information. If you don't have that manual, or if you simply prefer to access the information online, use these links for access to the Owners Manual for your vehicle.



Maintenance That's Right for You and Your Vehicle

- Maintenance schedules developed by manufacturers are designed around “typical” vehicle use circumstances. When deciding on the maintenance frequency that's right for your vehicle, consider its age and the nature of the driving you do. Older vehicles deserve more frequent and rigorous checks. Severe conditions such as heavy payloads, stop-and-go traffic, extreme cold or dusty conditions mean more frequent maintenance.
- There are plenty of online resources that explain or show you how to complete inspections and perform basic vehicle maintenance. They provide information to help you decide on those items that you need a qualified technician to complete.



TIP

Review a few sites and resources. Choose ones that provide impartial, practical suggestions (rather than promoting their services or products). Here is one [example](#) that provides a general introduction to inspections and maintenance.

- Many vehicle maintenance items must be completed by a certified technician with specialized training and tools. Similar to choosing your family doctor, it's worth your time to find a technician and shop you are comfortable with, and build a relationship with them. As they become familiar with you, your vehicle and your driving circumstances, they should provide maintenance tips that can save you time and money, and optimize your work vehicle's life.
- If you notice anything that may make your vehicle unsafe, inform your employer and consult your mechanic for their qualified opinion. Any condition that makes the vehicle unsafe must be repaired before the vehicle may be operated.

