

Checklist

Essential Vehicle Maintenance Tools Checklist

Roadside Emergency Tools

- Jack and jack stands
- Lug wrench or four-way wrench
- Tire pressure gauge
- Portable tire inflator
- Tire plug kit
- Jumper cables
- Portable jump starter
- Battery tester
- LED flashlight or headlamp
- Reflective vest
- Warning triangles
- Work gloves
- Safety glasses

Basic Home Garage Tools

- Socket set (metric and SAE)
 - 1/4" drive ratchet and sockets
 - 3/8" drive ratchet and sockets
 - 1/2" drive ratchet and sockets
 - Socket extensions
 - Universal joints
- Wrench set (combination wrenches)
- Screwdriver set
 - Phillips head (multiple sizes)
 - Flathead (multiple sizes)
 - Torx
 - Hex (Allen)
 - Robertson (square)
- Pliers set
 - Needle-nose pliers

- Slip-joint pliers
- Channel-lock pliers
- Locking pliers (Vise-Grips)
- Wire cutters/strippers
- Oil filter wrench
- Oil drain pan
- Funnels (various sizes)
- Coolant tester/hydrometer

Diagnostic and Precision Tools

- OBD-II scanner
- Digital multimeter
- Torque wrench (3/8" drive, 10-80 ft-lbs)
- Torque wrench (1/2" drive, 30-150 ft-lbs)
- Compression tester kit
- Leakdown tester

Advanced DIY Repair Tools

- Brake bleeder kit
- Impact wrench
- Impact socket set
- Mechanic's creeper
- Specialized mechanic's gloves
- Fluid transfer pump
- Pry bar set
- Pickle fork/ball joint separator set

Storage and Organization

- Portable tool bag/roll for vehicle
- Rolling tool chest with multiple drawers
- Pegboard or slat wall system for garage
- Tool organizers/holders
- Small parts organizers
- Magnetic parts trays
- Tool drawer liners
- Labels for storage organization

Additional Helpful Items

- Shop towels/rags
- Penetrating oil
- Brake cleaner
- Vehicle-specific repair manual
- Disposable gloves

- Battery-powered work light
- Extension cord/reel
- Fire extinguisher (rated for automotive fires)

Note: Start with the emergency and basic tools, then gradually expand your collection as your skills and needs develop. Focus on quality for tools you'll use frequently, especially safety-critical items like jack stands and torque wrenches.

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