

# BUDGET-FRIENDLY CAR MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Keep Your Vehicle Running Smoothly Without Breaking the Bank



## MONTHLY ESSENTIALS (Every 30 Days)



### Oil Level Check

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Check dipstick when engine is cool. Add oil if below minimum mark.

Cost: Free

Difficulty: Easy



### Tire Inspection

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Check for cuts, bulges, proper pressure. Press tire - should feel firm.

Cost: Free

Difficulty: Easy



### Light Testing

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Test headlights, brake lights, turn signals, hazards.

Cost: Free

Difficulty: Easy



### Fluid Level Check

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Check coolant, brake fluid, windshield washer fluid levels.

Cost: \$5-15

Difficulty: Easy



## QUARTERLY MAINTENANCE (Every 3 Months)



### Engine Oil Change

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Change oil and filter. Use correct oil type for your vehicle.

Miles: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$25-45

Difficulty: Medium



### Air Filter Replacement

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Replace dirty air filter to improve fuel efficiency and engine performance.

Cost: \$10-20

Difficulty: Easy



### Battery Terminal Cleaning

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Clean corrosion with baking soda solution. Check connections.

Cost: \$2-5

Difficulty: Easy

**SEMI-ANNUAL SERVICES (Every 6 Months)****Tire Rotation**

Rotate tires for even wear. Extends tire life significantly.

Cost: \$30-50

Difficulty: Medium

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Miles: \_\_\_\_\_

**Belt & Hose Inspection**

Check for cracks, fraying, or loose connections under hood.

Cost: Free

Difficulty: Easy

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Brake System Check**

Listen for squealing, feel for vibrations when braking.

Cost: Free

Difficulty: Easy

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**ANNUAL MAINTENANCE****Spark Plug Replacement**

Replace worn spark plugs to improve fuel economy and performance.

Cost: \$40-80

Difficulty: Medium

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Miles: \_\_\_\_\_

**Coolant System Flush**

Flush old coolant and refill with fresh coolant mix.

Cost: \$50-70

Difficulty: Medium

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Transmission Fluid Change**

Replace old transmission fluid with manufacturer-recommended type.

Cost: \$60-100

Difficulty: Hard

Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

Miles: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAINTENANCE TRACKING LOG**

Service Date	Mileage	Service Performed	Cost	Next Due

**EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Mechanic: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Tow Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Roadside Assistance: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**MONEY-SAVING TIPS**

- Buy parts online for 30-50% savings compared to local stores
- Learn basic maintenance through YouTube tutorials
- Address small problems immediately before they become expensive
- Keep detailed maintenance records to track patterns and warranties
- Shop around for major repairs - prices vary significantly between shops
- Use quality parts - cheap parts often cost more in the long run

Budget-Friendly Car Maintenance Checklist | Print and keep in your glove compartment  
Remember: Prevention is always cheaper than repair!