

Be Car Care Aware[®]

Vehicle Checklist For Car Pool Season

(NAPSA)—If any of the nearly 56 million children in the country getting ready to go back to school via car pools are yours, you can help make sure all the vehicles involved are kid safe and road ready with a five-point checklist:

1. Check lights and wipers for visibility. With shorter days and inclement weather ahead, make sure lights and wipers function properly so that you can see and be seen. Check the exterior and interior lights and replace any that are dimming, rapidly blinking or not functioning. Check wiper blades for signs of wear and replace if necessary.

2. Get an annual brake inspection. The braking system is your car's most important safety feature. Before car pool season gets in full swing, make sure that your brakes are functioning properly. Schedule a brake inspection and look for warning signs that your vehicle may need brake services, such as an illuminated brake light or screeching, grinding or clicking noises when applying the brakes.

3. Check tires for underinflation or excessive wear. Check tire pressure and refill underinflated tires, including the spare, look for uneven wear and check tread depth. An easy way to do the latter is by placing a penny head-down in the tread groove. If the tread does not cover Lincoln's head, it's time to replace your tires.

4. Make sure everyone is buckled up. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website has important tips on seat belt fit and position. For the younger ones riding along, the site has information about how to install car seats as well as guidelines on selecting a car seat or booster based on your child's age and size.



Carpooling can save time, money and the environment—and make getting to school more fun.

5. Consider a back-up detection device. Consider having a back-up detection device installed that provides rearview video or warning sounds when moving in reverse. While drivers should not rely solely on these devices, they can help to reduce the risk of backover incidents along with following other prevention tips from NHTSA.

"Back-to-school time is hectic for most families, but scheduling a complete vehicle inspection is time well spent," said Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council. "Knowing your vehicle was checked by a professional technician will give you peace of mind and make all those trips to school and activities safer and less stressful."

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers.

Learn More

For the latest car care news, visit the council's online media room at <http://media.carcare.org>. To order a free copy of the popular "Car Care Guide," visit the council's consumer education website at www.carcare.org.