

Checklist

You ought to look at these auto parts

A 15-minute inspection of your car is a small price to pay where the lives of your loved ones are concerned.

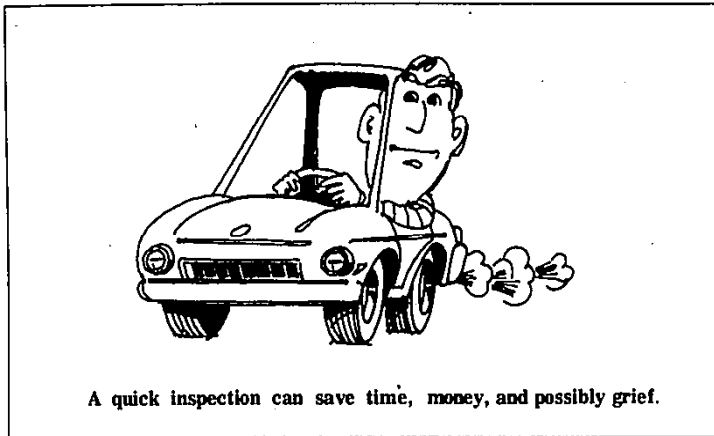
According to Ford Parts and Service Division, that's all the time it takes to complete a 15-step check-up it recommends to drivers before starting out on a family trip.

The division's check list includes the following:

•**Brakes**—Make certain the pedal is firm and cannot be pressed close to the floor. From a speed of about 25 m.p.h., apply firm, steady pressure to the brake pedal. Your car should slow down in relation to applied brake pressure, and stop completely if brake is not released. The pedal should remain firm.

To test the parking brake, hold down regular brake while applying parking brake. (If you don't engage the regular brake, parking brake effectiveness is reduced.) Release regular brake. Place the car in gear and depress the accelerator slightly. Your car should not move.

•**Steering**—In a large parking lot drive your car at a steady 10-15 m.p.h. in a tight circle and let go of the steering wheel. Test in opposite direction. If steering wheel does not return quickly to near center, check for underinflated tires or need for front-end lubrication. Other possible causes are front-end alignment, steering-column alignment or steering-gear adjustment. Any suspected steering irregularities should be checked by a skilled technician. Any noises, hard steering or momentary lack of, assist with power



steering systems also should be checked by a skilled technician.

•**Shock absorbers**—Push down on each fender in turn. Your car should return to normal level quickly, bobbing once or twice. Worn or broken shock absorbers can adversely affect your steering control.

•**Tires**—Flat spots on the tire tread or vibrations while driving may indicate that wheels are out-of-balance. Excessive wear on one side of a tire means front-end alignment may be needed. Check that each tire's "cold" pressure (after the car has been parked at least one hour) meets the

specifications on the manufacturer's decal on the car. Wear on center treads can be caused by over-inflation; conversely, wear on outer treads can be caused by under-inflation. Examine each tire for cuts or imbedded objects.

•**Lights**—Pull headlight switch to first stop. The following lights should be on: Instrument panel, parking, front and rear side markers, taillights, and license plate light. These lights should remain on when the switch is pulled completely out to turn on the headlights. Make certain headlight high beams operate properly.

Turn signals: With the ignition on, the following lights should flash when the turn signal lever is moved up or down: front directional, instrument panel turn indicator and rear directional lights.

•**Rear lights**: With the ignition on and a second person to assist, place the transmission selector in reverse and make certain the back-up lights are on. Step on the brake pedal to be sure that all brake lights go on.

•**Hazard flasher**: Pull out hazard switch and see if all four directional lights flash.

•**Horn**—Test it. When needed, your horn can help you avoid an accident.

•**Locks**—Make certain that all doors close easily, latches catch to keep doors closed and that locks work (lubricate if necessary). You don't want to discover a door latch problem after your trip is under way.

•**Seat belts**—Examine belts for cuts or unusual wear and be sure latches open and close easily and stay secure when closed.

•**Visibility**—Inspect all car windows for cracks that might possibly spread and obscure vision during high-speed driving.

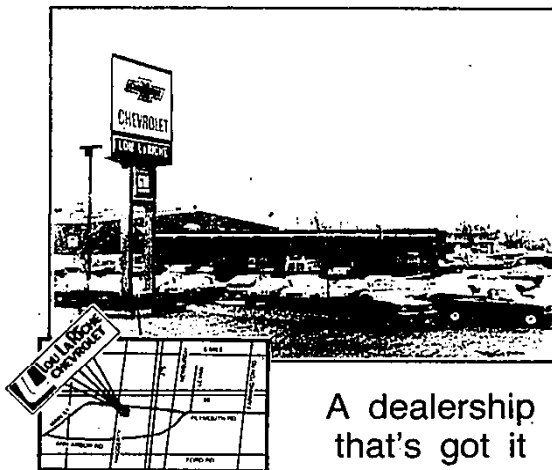
All mirrors should be securely fastened in place and properly positioned.

•**Fluid levels**—Check to see that engine oil, automatic transmission oil, radiator coolant and windshield washer fluid are at prescribed levels.

With the engine running, test operation of the windshield wipers and washers.

As a final precaution, check your emergency equipment such as spare tire and jack, road flares and first aid kit.

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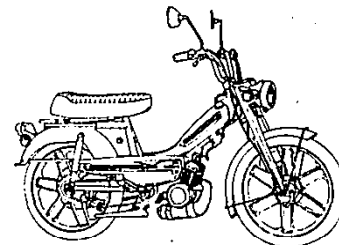
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