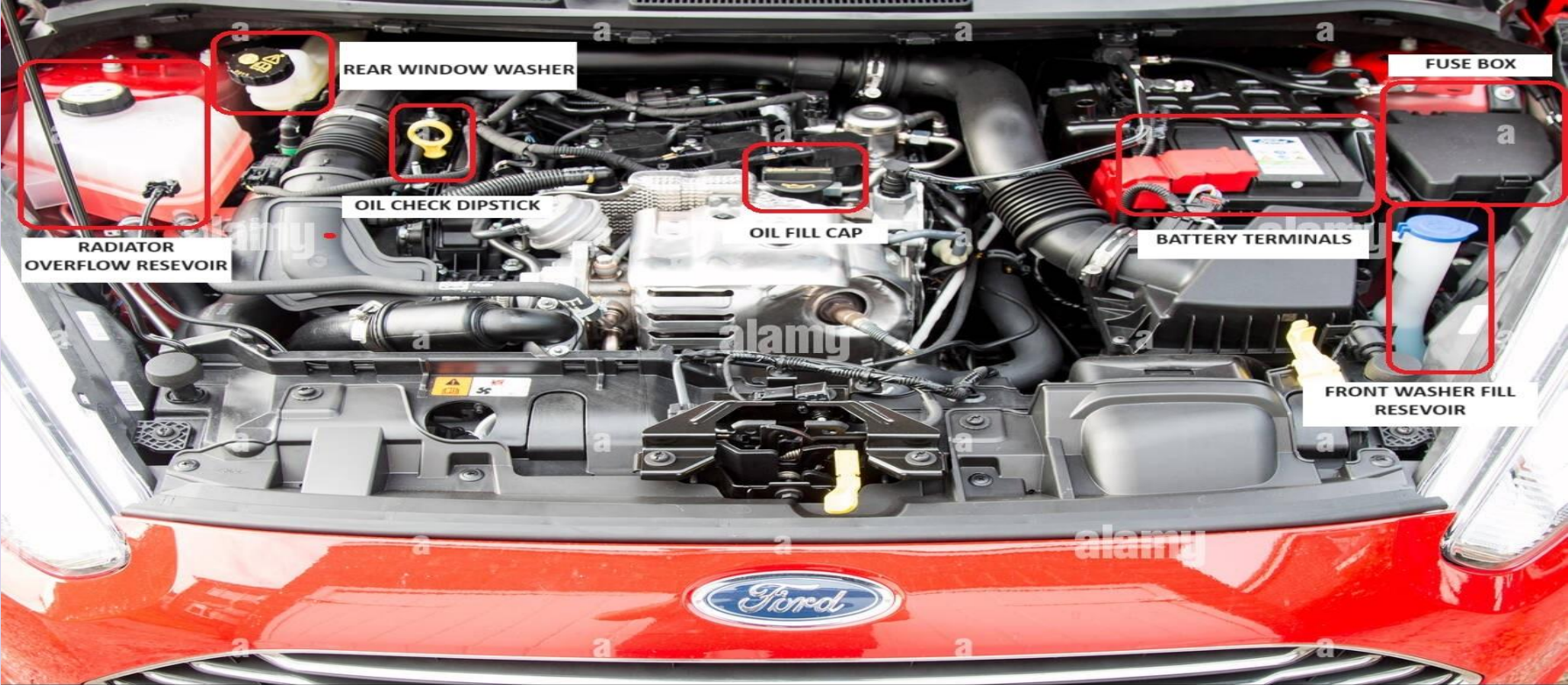


Teen Life Skills

Car Essentials

Presented by Shawn B and Bob H

What's Under the Hood?



Getting Started - When You Get In Your Car

Get familiar with your dash and what to look for

The Most Important Indicators:

- Check engine Light
- Low Tire Pressure
- Change Oil
- Any “open door/tailgate” lights

When You Get In Your Car (continued)

Before Driving:

- Adjust your seat first so you can comfortably reach steering wheel and pedals
- Adjust your side view mirrors to eliminate blind spots as much as possible
- Adjust your rear view mirror
- Make sure your parking brake is off - look for the indicator on the dash if you are not sure



The Meaning of 52 Car Dashboard Indicators

This infographic provides a comprehensive guide to 52 common car dashboard warning lights. The central image shows a typical dashboard with various indicators circled in yellow. Each indicator is accompanied by a callout box containing its name and a detailed explanation of what it signifies for the driver's vehicle.

- WINTER MODE**: Winter mode activated (vehicle moves in second or third gear to prevent tires from spinning and slipping)
- STEERING LOCK WARNING**: Steering is locked to prevent theft
- RAIN AND LIGHT SENSOR**: Issue detected: system deactivated temporarily; Sensors may be blocked by debris
- DIRTY AIR FILTER**: Air filter needs replacing or inspecting
- REAR SPOILER WARNING**: Spoiler system malfunctioning (loose/broken connector, blown fuse, leak)
- BRAKE LIGHT WARNING**: Brake lights not functioning properly
- ECO DRIVING INDICATOR**: Indicates engine is operating close to maximum miles per gallon
- DEF LIGHT (Diesel)**: Diesel exhaust fluid reservoir low
- DISTANCE WARNING**: Object in the road ahead of vehicle is approaching too quickly
- WASHER FLUID REMINDER**: Washer fluid is low
- ADAPTIVE LIGHT WARNING**: Adaptive lighting system malfunctioning (debris may be blocking sensors)
- FROST WARNING**: Ice may be forming on the road
- FUEL FILTER WARNING**: Fuel filter reaching maximum capacity, needs to be emptied
- HILL DESCENT CONTROL**: Engine's glow plugs are warming up; engine should not be started until this light turns off
- GLOW PLUG (Diesel)**: Vehicle automatically controls braking down steep hills
- SPEED LIMITER**: Driver set a speed limit that the vehicle will not exceed
- DPF LIGHT (Diesel)**: Diesel exhaust particulate filter failed test and needs service
- CHECK ENGINE (or Malfunction Indicator Light)**: Abnormal reading from transmission sensors (possibly fluid temperature, fluid level, or overall pressure)
- AUTOMATIC GEARBOX WARNING**: If it lights momentarily, ignition switch may be locked and need transponder-equipped key to start
- SECURITY ALERT**: Lighting or electrical problem
- SERVICE VEHICLE**: Traction control problem
- REDUCED POWER WARNING**: Communication problem between modules
- POWER STEERING WARNING LIGHT**: Engine computer has limited engine power output
- TRAILER TOW HITCH WARNING**: Modern vehicles limit vehicle performance to prevent further damage; could be caused by engine trouble, transmission faults, or a bad battery
- COOLANT TEMP WARNING**: Temperature has exceeded normal limits
- BRAKE SYSTEM**: Loss of oil pressure
- OIL PRESSURE WARNING**: Loss of oil pressure
- O/D OFF**: Overdrive off
- CHANGE ENGINE OIL**: Oil life is low
- OIL CHANGE REMINDER**: Oil life is low
- TPMS (Tire pressure monitoring system)**: Low tire pressure
- CRUISE CONTROL**: Cruise control is set
- DOOR AJAR**: Door, hood, or trunk not closed properly
- FOG LAMP**: Fog lamps are activated
- AIRBAG FAULT**: If light stays illuminated after starting, indicates fault in airbag system
- LAMP OUT**: An exterior light is not functioning properly
- CATALYTIC CONVERTER WARNING**: Catalytic converter is overheating or not operating properly
- BRAKE PAD WARNING**: Brake pads are too thin
- AUTOMATIC SHIFT LOCK (or Engine Start Indicator)**: Engage the brake to start ignition or shift out of neutral
- GAS CAP**: Gas cap is attached improperly
- ESC FAULT**: Problem with vehicle's traction control, anti-skid, or electronic stability control system
- BATTERY/CHARGING ALERT**: Battery voltage level is below normal
- AIR SUSPENSION WARNING**: Vehicle's charging system not functioning properly
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Battery terminals, alternator belt, serpentine belt, or fuses may be faulty
- ABS LIGHT**: Compressor not providing as much air as it should
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Leak in one of the bags
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Transmission is operating at higher temperature than normal
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Transmission fluid is hotter than normal
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Anti-lock brake computer needs professional diagnosis
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Anti-lock brake feature may be disabled
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Vehicle's traction/anti-skid or electronic stability system is in use
- TRANSMISSION TEMPERATURE**: Conditions may be slippery

Sources:
www.autozone.com
www.blog.casco.com

What To Keep In Your Glove Box

- Your registration and a copy of your insurance
- Your AAA card or other roadside assistance card
- Lug Bolt Key if you have one
- Owners Manual
- Pen and paper or note pad
- Rechargeable Flashlight
- Spare charger that accepts different cable types
- Screwdriver
- Energy Bars



What To Keep In Your Trunk

Get a travel kit!

It Should Contain:

- Jumper Cables
- Can of Tire Inflator
- Rechargeable Flashlight
- Raincoat or rain gear
- Blanket
- Some kind of rope (**NOT** for towing or pulling)
- 16 oz or larger hammer
- Adjustable wrench
- Can of WD-40



What if I Get In An Accident?

- If you or your passengers are hurt, stay in the car until the police come
- If it is a fender bender, assess where you are and if you are safe from traffic, if not and your car is driveable, move to a safe area, but DO NOT leave the scene entirely
- Remember, the other driver is not your friend. Use common sense when you are speaking with them. If the damage is significant or if someone in your vehicle may be hurt, call the police and wait
- If damage is minor and you are comfortable “exchanging info” make sure you get:
 - Picture of the driver’s driver license
 - Picture (front and back) of their insurance card - confirm the policy dates are active
 - Pictures of damage

Other Stuff

- How to Jump Start Your Car
 - Is your battery really dead or is it something else?
- How to Change a Tire
 - Only attempt changing a tire if you have at least tried jacking up your car and done a practice run
 - If you are comfortable changing a tire, make sure you are in a safe place, and on flat level ground

Parts of a Car Jack



Quizz!!!

