



CARS • KEEP THIS IN THE GLOVEBOX

The Glovebox Card

Dashboard lights decoded, flat-tire steps, and what to do after an accident — so future-you doesn't have to think.

Red lights — pull over safely, soon

Oil can	Oil pressure is low. Stop driving — engines are expensive. Check oil level; call for help if it's full.
Thermometer / TEMP	Engine overheating. Pull over, engine off, hood up, wait 30 min. Never open a hot radiator cap.
Battery	Charging system failing. You're running on battery only — head somewhere safe before it dies.
BRAKE	Parking brake on, or brake trouble. If the brake's off and it's still lit, get it checked now.

Yellow lights — get it checked this week

Check engine	Could be minor (loose gas cap) or not. Steady = soon. Flashing = stop driving. Auto parts stores scan codes free.
Tire (!)	Low tire pressure. Fill to the PSI on the driver's door sticker — not the number on the tire.
ABS	Anti-lock brakes offline. Normal braking still works; get it looked at.
Wrench / service	Maintenance due — usually an oil change reminder.

Dad's Quick Take: Red means *now*, yellow means *this week*, and a flashing check engine light means *park it*. That one rule covers 90% of it.

Flat tire — 8 steps

- 1 Get fully off the road. Hazards on. Parking brake on.
- 2 Find the spare, jack, and wrench (usually under the trunk floor).
- 3 Loosen the lug nuts a half-turn **while the car is on the ground**. Lefty-loosey.
- 4 Jack up at the pinch point behind the flat (check the manual) until the tire clears.
- 5 Remove nuts, pull the flat off, hang it flat under the car edge if on soft ground.
- 6 Mount the spare, hand-tighten nuts in a star pattern.
- 7 Lower the car, then fully tighten the nuts — star pattern again.
- 8 Donut spares: max ~50 mph, get a real tire within a few days.

No spare? Many cars now have a sealant kit instead — or call roadside assistance (check your insurance app; you may already have it free).

After an accident

- 1 Breathe. Check for injuries. Call 911 if anyone's hurt.
- 2 Move to a safe spot if the cars can move. Hazards on.
- 3 Never admit fault — even "I'm sorry." Stick to facts.
- 4 Photos: all 4 corners of both cars, plates, the street, their insurance card and license.
- 5 Swap: name, phone, insurance company + policy #. Get witness numbers too.
- 6 Call the police for a report if there's real damage — insurers want it.
- 7 Report to **your** insurance the same day, even if it wasn't your fault.

My car's numbers

Tire pressure (door sticker): _____ PSI	Oil type: _____
Insurance co. & phone: _____	Policy #: _____
Roadside assistance #: _____	Trusted mechanic: _____