



Summer Driving Tips From AAA

Summer presents plenty of traffic safety concerns that, if ignored, can turn a dreamy ride into a nightmare. Motorists should keep these summer driving safety tips top of mind before hitting the road.

- Whether traveling 5 or 500 miles, every driver should carry important items like a **mobile phone charger, a flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit, drinking water, extra snacks and food, booster cables, emergency flares or reflectors, windshield wiper fluid and a basic toolkit with a tire pressure gauge and adjustable wrench**. Despite the importance of these items, more than 40 percent of motorists don't carry such an emergency kit, one of the most valuable summer driving safety tips.
- Sun glare can be a serious hazard. A sweet pair of **sunglasses** will help you look wicked cool, and it'll help you deal with bright summer sun. **Polarized lenses** reduce glare. You'll also benefit from **keeping your windshield clean**. Dirt and streaks are especially pronounced under strong light.
- Flip flops are fine for the beach, but they're not the best footwear for driving. The straps and flimsy soles can easily get caught under the pedals.
- Tying a surfboard, cooler or a week's worth of camping supplies to your vehicle's roof rack? Make sure you review its weight limit first and check your route for any height restrictions.
- **Avoid distractions.** For parents, that can be children in the backseat who are arguing with each other or using mobile devices. For any driver, it can be the temptation to use a cellphone behind the wheel. **If you must make a call or send a text, find a safe place to pull over.**
- **Turn on your headlights during twilight hours.** That'll make it easier for other drivers to see you.
- Never leave children or pets in the car unattended. Temperatures inside a vehicle can spike dangerously high in just a few minutes. Even if the outside temperature is 60 degrees, temperatures inside a vehicle can reach 110 degrees, according to the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**.
- Don't leave food or drinks inside your car on a hot day, especially canned beverages, which can explode under high temperatures. The same goes for hairspray or canned deodorant.
- When packing, distribute weight evenly in and atop your vehicle. **Don't pack items in any spot that obstructs your view, or your mirrors.**



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