

# THE ART OF PREPARATION - ENSURING YOUR JEEP IS READY FOR EVENTS AND TRAIL RIDES



THE PRE-EVENT CHECKLIST



# WELCOME!

The anticipation of an upcoming off-road event or trail ride can be thrilling, as it promises adventure, camaraderie, and the opportunity to test the limits of your Jeep. However, before you immerse yourself in the excitement, it's essential to spend time preparing your vehicle and yourself for the challenges that lie ahead. This level of preparedness not only minimizes the risk of problems during your journey but also ensures a safer, more enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

By dedicating time and effort to prepare your Jeep and yourself for off-road events and trail rides, you'll not only enhance your own experience but also contribute to a safer, more enjoyable atmosphere for your fellow off-roading enthusiasts. So, let's dive into the world of Jeep preparation and set the stage for countless unforgettable adventures!

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To prevent your upcoming weekend expedition from becoming a nightmare, you should inspect your Jeep just as you would any vehicle before a lengthy drive. Even on short trails, off-road driving puts much more strain on your Jeep than highway driving.

Make sure you are prepared before you head out to any trail ride.



# PRE-EVENT

## CHECKLIST

### CHECK FLUID:

- Oil Level \_\_\_\_\_
- Transmission Fluid \_\_\_\_\_
- Windshield Washer Fluid \_\_\_\_\_
- Differential Fluid \_\_\_\_\_
- Coolant level \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### SERVICES:

- Oil Change & Oil Filter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tires Rotated & Inspected \_\_\_\_\_
- Differential & Axle Services \_\_\_\_\_
- Replace Air Filter \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### INSPECT:

- Rotors and Break Pads \_\_\_\_\_
- Driveshafts \_\_\_\_\_
- Universal Joints \_\_\_\_\_
- Track Bar \_\_\_\_\_
- Control Arms \_\_\_\_\_
- Springs & Shocks \_\_\_\_\_

### INSPECT:

- Steering & Steering Components \_\_\_\_\_
- Skids & Differential Covers \_\_\_\_\_
- Thorough Once Over Of Entire Jeep \_\_\_\_\_
- Winch & Winch Line in good working order \_\_\_\_\_
- All Recovery Gear & Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

### MISCELLANEOUS

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Service Lights Are On _____       | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Items In Date _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguishers Are In Date _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check your Battery _____             | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |



# CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS

## The Importance of Checking Fluids

Fluids are the lifeblood of your Jeep's engine, transmission, braking system, and other essential components. They serve to lubricate, cool, and protect these systems, ensuring smooth and efficient operation. Regularly checking and maintaining the proper fluid levels is crucial not only for the longevity of your vehicle but also for your safety on the trails.

## Fluid Check Frequency

It's recommended to check your Jeep's fluid levels both before and after each off-road event or trail ride. This allows you to identify any potential issues early on and address them before they escalate, reducing the risk of mechanical failures or accidents during your journey.

## Step-by-Step Guide to Checking Fluids

Follow this step-by-step guide to ensure that your Jeep's fluid levels are properly maintained:

**Engine Oil:** With the engine off and parked on a level surface, locate the dipstick, pull it out, and wipe it clean with a cloth or paper towel. Reinsert the dipstick fully, then remove it once more to check the oil level. The level should be between the "full" and

# CHECK ALL FLUID LEVELS

"add" marks on the dipstick. If the oil level is low, add the recommended type and amount of engine oil.

**Transmission Fluid:** With the engine running and warmed up, locate the transmission dipstick (refer to your owner's manual for its location). Pull out the dipstick, wipe it clean, reinsert it fully, and then remove it again to check the fluid level. The fluid should be within the "hot" range on the dipstick. If the level is low, add the recommended type of transmission fluid.

**Brake Fluid:** Locate the brake fluid reservoir (usually near the back of the engine compartment). Check the fluid level through the transparent reservoir or by removing the cap and looking inside. The fluid should be within the "min" and "max" lines marked on the reservoir. If the level is low, add the recommended type of brake fluid.

**Coolant:** Ensure that the engine is cool before checking the coolant level. Locate the coolant reservoir (typically a translucent white container) and verify that the fluid level is between the "min" and "max" lines. If the level is low, **ONLY USE COOLANT FOR YOUR SPECIFIC JEEP!** Check the owners manual!!



**Windshield Washer Fluid:** Locate the washer fluid reservoir (usually a blue or white container with a windshield symbol on the cap) and check the fluid level. If the level is low, add windshield washer fluid until it reaches the "full" mark.

**Differential Fluid:** A plastic syringe with a brief section of transparent tubing works well for collecting fluid samples from the transfer case and differential. A milky white hue, also known as a "milkshake," could indicate water poisoning. It will need to be flushed!



# OVERALL JEEP CHECK

## **Your Brakes and Breaking System**

Check the rotors and pads on your brakes. Using brakes in mud and sand will cause them to wear out quicker. Examine the rotors for grooves that might point to irregular wear and discoloration; a blue tinge might point to a frozen brake caliper. Make sure the entire breaking system is working correctly.

## **Drive Shaft and Mechanical Parts**

Examine the drive shafts, universal joints, track bars, control arms, springs, and shocks.

Examine the drive shafts for dents, rub marks, rust tracks, loose or missing hardware, and universal joints for play.

## **Check Steering**

Do a check of all of your steering components. Including steering parts that move side to side or ball joints that move up and down.

Ask a helper to move the steering wheel 2 inches in each direction. Keep an eye out for play, binding, and rubbing in the steering components. It is a good idea to lubricate all the suspension and universal joint grease fittings while you are underneath the Jeep. There will be more stress than usual on everything.

# OVERALL JEEP CHECK

Make sure all of your service is up to date. That means oil changes, tire rotation, tire service, axle or differential services. Don't head out to a trail ride close to needing any of those services done. Always do them BEFORE a trail ride if you are close.

Put Eyes on your ENTIRE Jeep! This includes fenders, bumpers, and skid plates.

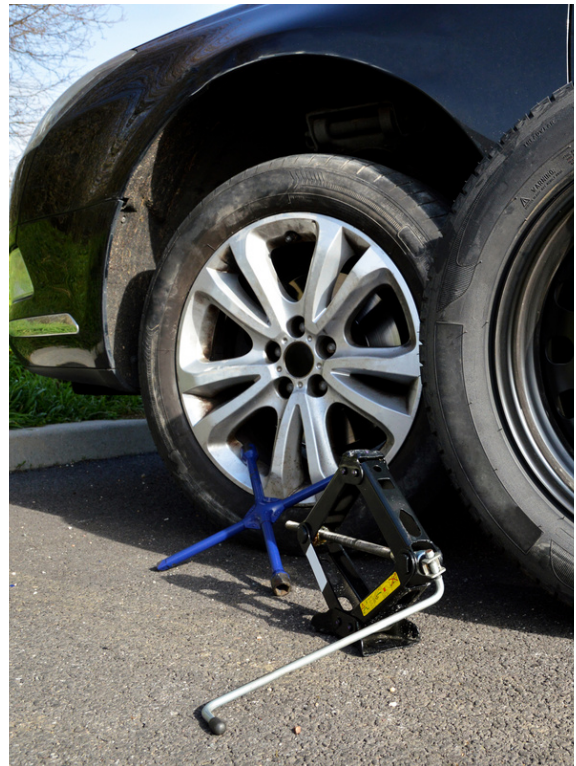
Ensure the Winch is functional. Check the winch, remote and winch line for any issues.

Check ALL of your recovery equipment.

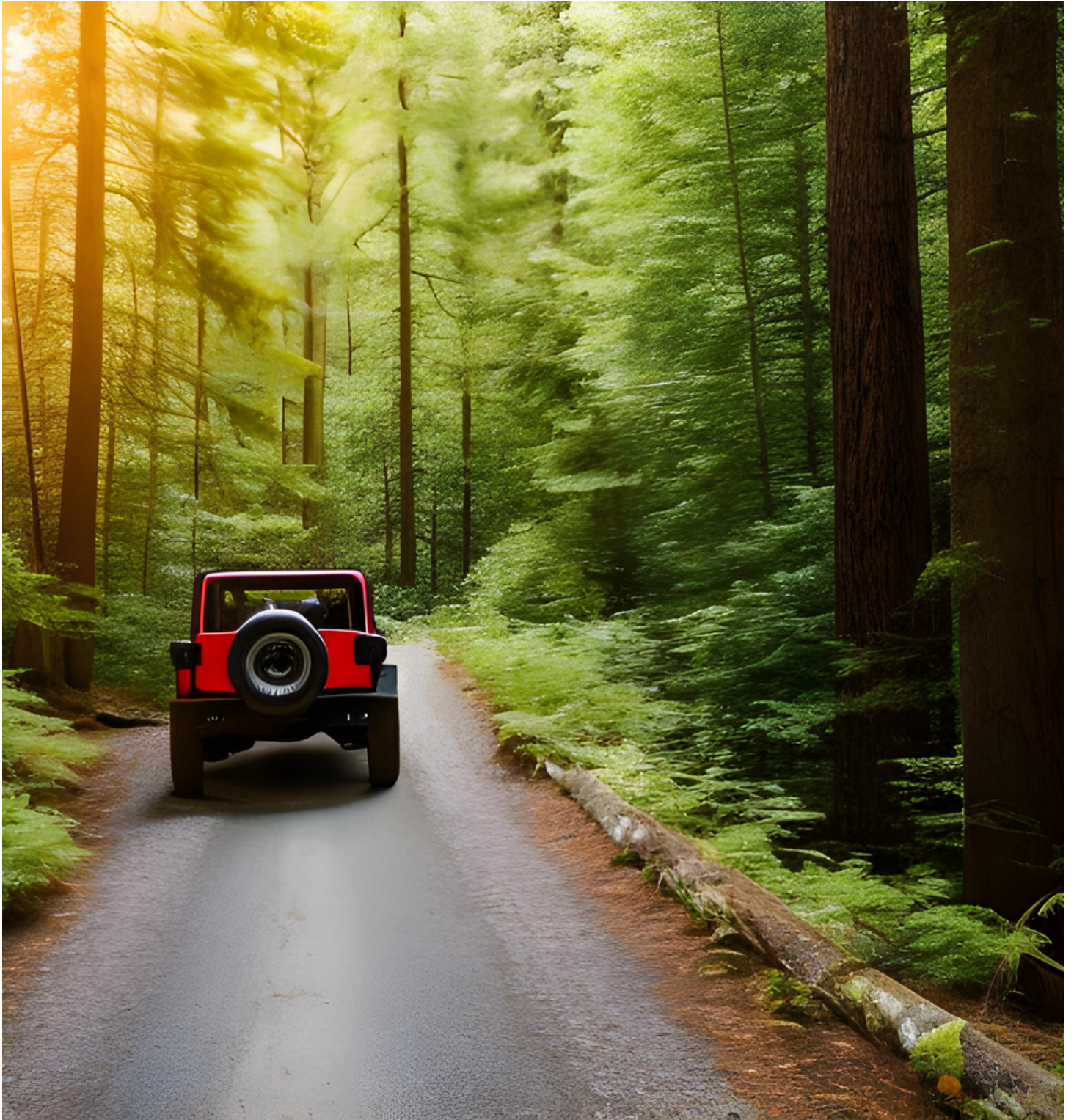
Ensure your emergency roadside kit is intact, and test your CB/hand held radio.

Have jumper cables, road flares, a basic first aid kit, and fire extinguishers mounted in your Jeep.

Ensure you everything you need to change a tire right away. This includes a jack that will work with your current lift and tire size, 4-way and/or socket and drive.







Take Your Time to be prepared before you head off to an event or down the trail. The ultimate goal is to have a great time, stay safe, and have the least mechanical problems.

# CONTACT US



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