

Pack your car with safety in mind

Anyone who has ever packed a car for a road trip knows that loading properly lies somewhere between science and art. Loading your car safely doesn't mean stuffing everything but the kitchen sink into the trunk and hoping for the best.

Consider the following:

Can your vehicle handle the load?

This is very important to consider, especially when pulling a trailer. If you're not sure how much your vehicle can handle, ask your automotive technician for advice. Overloading can affect your car's handling and stability and could damage your suspension.

Preparing your vehicle for the road ahead.

A tune-up is in order, especially for long excursions. Make sure your brakes are in

good working order. Make sure your headlights are properly adjusted. Loading your trunk will cause the front end of your vehicle to be raised slightly.

If you own a vehicle like a station wagon or minivan with an open cargo area, make sure none of the items packed could become dangerous projectiles in the event of an abrupt stop.

Checklist

A checklist is extremely valuable before you hit the road. Here are a few items you may want to add to your own personal list:

- A properly inflated spare tire
- Extra litre of oil.
- Maps and CAA Triptiks.
- Your CAA membership card.

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