



## The Fall Vehicle Inspection Checklist

### Battery Test & Charging System



During your battery and electrical system inspection, make sure to:

- ☐ Test the voltage to ensure your battery is holding a charge.
- ☐ Inspect terminals for corrosion or loose connections.
- ☐ Confirm the charging system is operating correctly.
- ☐ Replace your battery if it's more than 3–5 years old or shows signs of failure.

### Fluid Levels & Condition



For safe driving in cold and wet conditions, be sure to:

- ☐ Antifreeze/coolant  
*Prevents freezing and keeps your engine at the right temperature.*
- ☐ Windshield washer fluid  
*Use a winter formula to cut through salt and slush.*
- ☐ Brake fluid  
*Critical for safe stopping power.*
- ☐ Antifreeze/coolant  
*Check the level and quality; consider switching to winter-grade oil if recommended by your manufacturer.*
- ☐ Transmission fluid  
*Keeps gears shifting smoothly, even in cold conditions.*

### Tire Tread, Pressure & Alignment



For safe driving in cold and wet conditions, be sure to:

- ☐ Use a gauge to check tire pressure and inflate to the recommended PSI.  
*This can be found on the sticker inside your driver's side door or in your owner's manual.*
- ☐ Inspect tread depth using a tread gauge or the penny test.  
*If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, it's time for new tires.*
- ☐ Schedule a tire rotation to promote even wear.
- ☐ Have your alignment checked to avoid uneven tread patterns.
- ☐ Consider switching to winter tires if you regularly drive in icy or snowy conditions.

### Heater & Defroster Functionality



Before the first freeze, test:

- ☐ The heater for steady warmth.
- ☐ Front and rear defrosters for proper airflow.
- ☐ Climate controls to ensure they respond correctly.

## Brakes & Rotors



When inspecting your brakes, look and listen for:

- ☐ Squealing, grinding, or metallic noises.
- ☐ Vibration or pulsation when braking.
- ☐ Visible wear on brake pads or rotors.

## Wipers & Lights



Make sure to:

- ☐ Verify wipers work properly and replace wiper blades that streak, skip, or squeak.
- ☐ Check that your windshield washer reservoir is full.
- ☐ Inspect all lights (headlights, brake lights, taillights, and turn signals) with a partner's help.
- ☐ Replace any burned-out bulbs or hazy headlight covers.

## Emergency Kit Check



Keep these essentials in your trunk throughout fall and winter:

- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ☐ Warm blanket, hat, and gloves
- ☐ Jumper cables or a portable jump starter
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Ice scraper, snow brush, and small shovel
- ☐ Bottled water and non-perishable snacks