

Worksheet 7: Vehicle Readiness Checklist

Colorado's altitude (Denver = 5,280 ft), winter mountain passes, and rapidly changing weather require year-round vehicle readiness beyond what most states demand.

DAILY PRE-SHIFT CHECK

- ☐ Fuel level — minimum half tank (I-70 mountain delays can strand you)
- ☐ Waze loaded and updated — check I-25, I-70, I-225, US-36 incidents
- ☐ CDOT cotrip.org checked for I-70 mountain pass status (if mountain runs scheduled)
- ☐ Phone fully charged + car charger connected
- ☐ Proof of insurance accessible (glove box)
- ☐ COI (Certificate of Insurance) PDF saved on phone
- ☐ Weather check — Colorado weather can change from 70°F to snowstorm in hours
- ☐ Emergency kit confirmed in vehicle (see seasonal checklist)

WEEKLY CHECK

- ☐ Coolant / cooling system — altitude increases cooling system demand
- ☐ Tire pressure (altitude and temperature swings affect pressure)
- ☐ Brake check — altitude and mountain routes increase brake wear
- ☐ Waze and cotrip.org apps updated
- ☐ Vehicle interior clean and professional
- ☐ COI / insurance documents current

COLORADO WINTER CHECKLIST (November – March)

- ☐ All-season or winter tires — Colorado Traction Law: Traction tires required on I-70 mountain corridor
- ☐ Chains stored in vehicle if doing I-70 mountain passes (Eisenhower/Johnson Tunnel)
- ☐ Emergency kit: blanket, jumper cables, sand/traction aid, flashlight, water, first aid
- ☐ CDOT cotrip.org / 511 Colorado bookmarked for real-time pass status
- ☐ Windshield defroster and rear defroster functioning
- ☐ Washer fluid rated for freezing temps topped off

ALTITUDE CONSIDERATIONS — COLORADO-SPECIFIC

- ☐ Cooling system serviced for altitude (runs hotter at elevation)
- ☐ Air filter checked — altitude affects air-fuel mixture
- ☐ Brake fluid current — altitude increases brake demand on declines
- ☐ Personal hydration — altitude increases dehydration; drink more water than you think

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