Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

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Page with the live version:
https://offroadfreedom.com/guides/pre-trip-off-road-vehicle-inspection-checklist/

Pressures, torque and fluid specs come from your owner's manual and the tire placard. If something is not right, fix it, replace it or postpone the trip.

Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

Done	Area	What to check
[ ]	Tires	Pressure against the door-jamb placard (cold), tread, cuts, bulges, sidewall damage, valve caps
[ ]	Spare and jack	Spare inflated and accessible; jack and wheel wrench present and working
[ ]	Wheels	Lug nuts present and tight as the manual says; no cracks or bent rims
[ ]	Engine fluids	Oil, coolant, brake, power steering and washer levels against the manual
[ ]	Leaks	Fresh drips on the ground under the engine, transmission and axles
[ ]	Battery	Terminals clean and tight, hold-down secure, no swelling or corrosion
[ ]	Lights	Headlights, brake lights, turn signals and any auxiliary lights work
[ ]	Belts and hoses	No cracks, fraying or softness
[ ]	Brakes	Pedal feel normal; no warning light; pads and rotors as the manual says
[ ]	Underbody	Skid plates, exhaust and steering parts secure; no hanging parts
[ ]	Load	Cargo secured and weight within the vehicle's limits; recovery gear reachable
[ ]	Fuel and water	Fuel for the trip and a reserve; drinking water on board

Sources

Torque, fluid and brake specs come from your owner's manual.

USTMA: Tire care essentials
https://www.ustires.org/tire-care-safety/tire-care-essentials
Recommended pressure is on the driver's door label or in the owner's manual; check when tires are cold. Checked November 12, 2026.

A general checklist, not advice for one vehicle. Check your own equipment against the maker's manual and ratings.