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by Justin Metz on April 9, 2021We all know the importance of having a reliable, well-running vehicle. But with so many complex moving parts in modern cars, trucks and SUVs, it's not uncommon to have underlying problems you may be unaware of.To catch any issues before they result in a breakdown, most auto dealers, mechanics and service centers offer a multi-point inspection. This service is a comprehensive evaluation of nearly every component of your vehicle. They can also be called a courtesy check, vehicle inspection, maintenance inspection or pre-purchase inspection (if its done before you buy a used car).As a vehicle owner, it makes a difference to do your research and think ahead whether that shopping for auto insurance or knowing when to get a multi-point inspection. Heres what to know about the latter.There are plenty of reasons to get a multi-point inspection. For starters, its a key element of preventative vehicle maintenance. Knowing the condition of your vehicle can help you catch and address potential issues before they lead to dangerous failures or costly repairs.And because most multi-point inspections evaluate your vehicle on a rating scale (green = good; yellow = needs repaired soon; red = needs repaired now), it provides you with the information needed to plan and budget for repairs in the future.What is checked during a multi-point inspection?The specific elements of your inspection may vary depending on where you take a vehicle for service. But generally, you can expect most of these components to be evaluated:Under the hood Engine oil: In gas-powered vehicles, oil lubricates an engines internal parts to help reduce friction and wear. During an inspection, a technician will check to ensure your oil is clean and filled to the appropriate level. While some oil use over time is normal, consistently low oil levels can be a sign of a leak. And dirty oil should be changed to maximize engine protection and performance. Coolant: Your cars cooling system protects the engine from running too hot, which can cause significant damage. An inspection of your cooling system will include checking the radiator hoses and coolant hoses for leaks. Your antifreeze should also be clean and filled to the appropriate level. Learn what to do if your car overheats. Brake fluid: In a hydraulic braking system, brake fluid provides the force needed to apply your brakes. This fluid should be clean and full, as it goes bad over time. Power steering fluid: Similar to brake fluid, this hydraulic fluid is used to build the pressure that operates your vehicles power steering rack. Air filter: An engines air filter ensures no debris makes its way inside your engine. Like any filter, it can get clogged over time, which reduces engine performance. Drive belts: Rubber serpentine belts drive multiple components in your engine bay, including the power steering pump, alternator and air conditioning compressor. As your belt ages, cracking can lead to a broken belt. And a loose belt can make a loud squealing noise. Hoses: There are a number of rubber and metal hoses in an engine bay that carry fluids to your cars engine and other critical components. During an inspection, the technician will check for any leaks that could cause problems down the road. Battery: A battery supplies the electricity needed to start and operate your vehicle. By conducting a battery voltage test, a technician can give some insight into the overall health of your battery. They may also check your alternator to ensure its properly charging your battery while the engine is running. A dead battery tops our list of 7 reasons your car wont start. Washer fluid: Most drivers have experience filling their washer fluid tank. This quick check will ensure youve got enough fluid to clean your windshield when needed.Safety Equipment Seat belts: Safety restraints, such as seat belts, will be checked for proper operation. Airbags: A technician may use a vehicle code scanner to check for any issues with your cars airbag system. Given the recent string of airbag recalls, they can also let you know if any need to be replaced (any recall-related repair will be paid for by the vehicle manufacturer). Horn: A quick honk is all thats needed to validate that your horn is in working order. Brakes: The condition of your brakes has a huge impact on your vehicles stopping power. Brake pads will be inspected for wear (this determines how much life they have left) and rotors will be checked for warping, rust or other damage.Interior/Exterior Lights: Headlights, Taillights, Turn signals. They should all be burning bright. If not, the bulbs can be replaced. Wipers: Cracked or broken windshield wiper blades can leave you with a streaky view when rain starts to fall. Learn when and how to replace your windshield wipers. Floor mats: This may sound strange, but improperly installed floor mats have led to serious accidents over the years (this includes installing aftermarket floor mats on top of the mats that came stock with your vehicle). If your mat gets caught under the accelerator or brake pedal, you could find yourself in an unsafe situation. Cabin air filter: In the same way your engine air filter cleans the air going into your engine, a cabin air filter keeps dust and debris from coming through your cars vents. If its dirty or clogged, it should be replaced. Air conditioning: Your AC will be checked to ensure its blowing cold.Drivetrain Engine performance: One of the most important checks is evaluating the overall performance of your engine. To do this, a technician will use a code scanner to read any error codes from the vehicles computer. If your car isnt running smoothly, theyll also evaluate the cars idle speed and ignition system (spark plugs and wires), while checking for any oil leaks that may impact performance. Transmission/clutch: Its the job of your transmission to apply power from the engine to the wheels. If you have an automatic transmission, a technician will check the condition of your transmission fluid and evaluate whether the car is shifting smoothly from one gear to the next. If you have a manual transmission (stick shift), your clutch will also be tested for proper engagement. Differential/transfer case: On your cars axle, a differential helps to split power from the transmission to both drive wheels. If you have a four-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive vehicle, youll also have something called a transfer case (this transfers power to the front and rear axles). 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Taking a long road trip, Fixing potential problems before you hit the road can prevent a vacation-ruining breakdown. Read more in our ultimate guide to planning a road trip. Changing seasons. The fall and spring are popular times to schedule inspections due to changing weather and driving conditions. Selling a car. If youre selling your car to someone directly, a recent multi-point inspection can give buyers confidence in the quality of your vehicle and fetch you a better price. Multi-point inspection vs. state inspectionDepending on where you live, your state or county might require you to complete an annual or biennial vehicle inspection. Its important to note that these inspections are not the same as a multi-point vehicle inspection. Some state inspections only test the emissions of your vehicle to ensure its not emitting more pollutants than it should. Others require a safety inspection, but it may be less thorough than a full multi-point inspection.Performance you can count onAt Erie Insurance, we believe reliability isnt just important for cars. You should be able to count on your insurance company, too. When you purchase auto insurance from Erie, we commit to be there when you need us and get you back on your way, right away. To learn more, talk to a local independent agent in your neighborhood.ERIE insurance products and services are provided by one or more of the following insurers: Erie Insurance Exchange, Erie Insurance Company, Erie Insurance Property & Casualty Company, Flagship City Insurance Company and Erie Family Life Insurance Company (home offices: Erie, Pennsylvania) or Erie Insurance Company of New York (home office: Rochester, New York). The companies within the Erie Insurance Group are not licensed to operate in all states. Refer to the company licensure and states of operation information.The insurance products and rates, if applicable, described in this blog are in effect as of the articles publish date and may be changed at any time.Insurance products are subject to terms, conditions and exclusions not described in this blog. The policy contains the specific details of the coverages, terms, conditions and exclusions. The insurance products and services described in this blog are not offered in all states. ERIE life insurance and annuity products are not available in New York. ERIE Medicare supplement products are not available in the District of Columbia or New York. ERIE long term care products are not available in the District of Columbia and New York.Eligibility will be determined at the time of application based upon applicable underwriting guidelines and rules in effect at that time.Your ERIE agent can offer you practical guidance and answer questions you may have before you buy. TrendsGetting a multi-point car inspection is an important part of owning a vehicle. But what exactly happens during a car inspection? Well discuss the different components of a multi-point car inspection, why they are important, and when you should schedule one next. Mechanic | Kenny Eliaison via Unsplash According to Erie Insurance, whats included in your cars multi-point inspection may vary depending on where you bring your car for service. However, you can expect many of the following components to be evaluated during the inspection process: Under the Hood During a car inspection, technicians will look at all the major components under your vehicles hood. This includes checking the engine oil level and quality, inspecting the battery, testing the charging system, and checking the hoses and belts. They will also look at the cooling system to ensure there are no leaks and that the coolant level is where it should be. Interior and Exterior Damage During a car inspection, technicians will also look at the interior and exterior of your vehicle for any damage. They will also check the glass on your vehicle for cracks or chips. In addition, they will inspect your floor mats, wipers, lights, air filters, and air conditioning systems. Drivetrain According to Survey Link How Technology is Changing Multi-Point InspectionsCar technology is improving fast. Mechanics now use tools like computers and scanners to find car problems quickly. These tools help them spot issues that were harder to see in the past. For example, modern scanners can look in detail at the engine and other car parts. The rise of electric cars (EVs) and hybrids has also changed inspections. Now, mechanics check these cars' unique features, such as battery health and electrical systems.The Role of Regular Inspections in Vehicle LongevityRegular inspections are a great way to keep your car running longer. By fixing small issues early, you avoid more significant problems later. For example, regular tire checks, oil changes, and brake inspections help your car run smoothly. These simple steps stop your car from wearing down too quickly. Taking care of your vehicle this way saves money and keeps it on the road longer.Final ThoughtsSo, what is a multi-point inspection? It is a detailed checkup that helps maintain vehicle safety and performance. It prevents costly repairs and keeps the car running smoothly. Regular multi-point inspections ensure the car stays reliable and road-ready. People Also Ask (FAQs)1. Is a multi-point inspection worth it?Yes, a multi-point inspection is worth it because it helps find small problems before they become big and expensive. It can save you money and keep your car safe and running well.2. What is the purpose of a multi-point inspection (MPI) performed on a vehicle?A multi-point inspection checks your cars key parts, such as tires, brakes, and fluids. This helps ensure everything is working properly and prevents future breakdowns.3. What is the purpose of an MPI?An MPI aims to catch any issues with your car early. By checking important parts, it helps keep your car safe, running smoothly, and more reliable.4. Justin Metz on April 9, 2021We all know the importance of having a reliable, well-running vehicle. But with so many complex moving parts in modern cars, trucks and SUVs, it's not uncommon to have underlying problems you may be unaware of.To catch any issues before they result in a breakdown, most auto dealers, mechanics and service centers offer a multi-point inspection. This service is a comprehensive evaluation of nearly every component of your vehicle. 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Whatever option you choose, adjust your expectations accordingly.When should I get a multi-point inspection?Theres really no bad time to schedule a multi-point inspection for your vehicle. Typically, getting an inspection every year or two will help keep your car in perfect running condition. But you may also consider scheduling an inspection before events such as: Buying a used car. A pre-purchase inspection will ensure there wont be any surprises when you drive your new-to-you car off the lot. Learn more in our explainer on pros and cons of buying a used car. Taking a long road trip, Fixing potential problems before you hit the road can prevent a vacation-ruining breakdown. Read more in our ultimate guide to planning a road trip. Changing seasons. The fall and spring are popular times to schedule inspections due to changing weather and driving conditions. Selling a car. 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To learn more, talk to a local independent agent in your neighborhood.ERIE insurance products and services are provided by one or more of the following insurers: Erie Insurance Exchange, Erie Insurance Company, Erie Insurance Property & Casualty Company, Flagship City Insurance Company and Erie Family Life Insurance Company (home offices: Erie, Pennsylvania) or Erie Insurance Company of New York (home office: Rochester, New York). The companies within the Erie Insurance Group are not licensed to operate in all states. Refer to the company licensure and states of operation information.The insurance products and rates, if applicable, described in this blog are in effect as of the articles publish date and may be changed at any time.Insurance products are subject to terms, conditions and exclusions not described in this blog. The policy contains the specific details of the coverages, terms, conditions and exclusions. The insurance products and services described in this blog are not offered in all states. ERIE life insurance and annuity products are not available in New York. ERIE Medicare supplement products are not available in the District of Columbia or New York.ERIE long term care products are not available in the District of Columbia and New York.Eligibility will be determined at the time of application based upon applicable underwriting guidelines and rules in effect at that time.Your ERIE agent can offer you practical guidance and answer questions you may have before you buy.

**What is checked in a multi-point inspection. What does a multi-point vehicle inspection include. What does multi-point inspection mean. What is a multi point inspection.**

