



The car kit, in buying order.

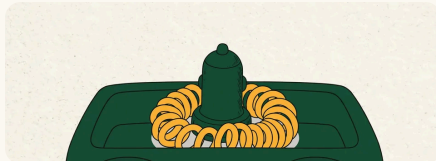
Twelve things for the trunk, cheapest and most important first.

1 Water



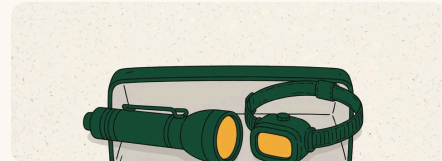
- A few bottles, swapped out monthly in the heat
- For you, the radiator, a wound
- Costs almost nothing

2 Phone charger and cable



- A car charger that lives in the car
- A cable that stays plugged in
- A small power bank if the car will not start

3 Flashlight



- LED, with the batteries in it
- A headlamp if you ever change a tire at night
- Check it when the clocks change

4 First aid kit



- Bandages, tape, gauze, pain reliever
- Add any family medication
- Keep it where a passenger can reach it

5 Jump pack or cables



- A lithium jump pack needs no second car
- Cables if the budget is tight
- Charge the pack every few months

6 Blanket



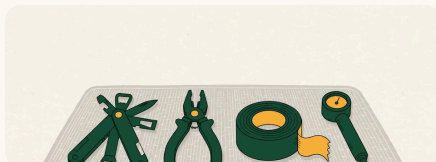
- A real blanket plus a space blanket
- Warmth, shade, a kneeling pad
- Wool does not care if it gets wet

7 Gloves and a rag



- Work gloves for hot or broken things
- A rag and a small bottle of hand sanitizer
- Cheap and used often

8 Basic tools



- Multi-tool, pliers, a small adjustable wrench
- Duct tape and zip ties
- A tire pressure gauge

9 Reflective triangle or flares



- Being seen is the whole safety problem on a shoulder
- Two triangles, one set back
- A reflective vest if you can

10 Tire kit



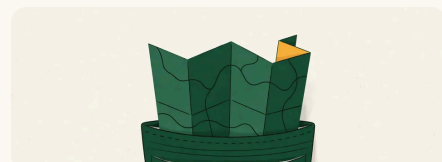
- A plug kit and a 12-volt inflator
- Check the spare exists and has air
- Know where the jack is

11 Food that keeps in heat



- Nuts, jerky, hard candy
- Chocolate and bars melt in a SoCal trunk
- Swap when you swap the water

12 A paper map



- Phones die, signal drops, maps do not
- A state map and one of your county
- Mark the hospital and home

Buy the top four this week. Add one a month. Done by spring.

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