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Trip preparation – why the pre-check matters

The Graeme Cooper website page <http://www.graemecooper.com.au/upgrades.htm> contains useful background information on the improvements that will make your Land Rover safer and more reliable. However, this is not the only aspect to be considered when planning an extensive trip away from a convenient source of parts and service.



We are frequently asked what spares to take on an extended trip. While we certainly could compile a list and supply a kit of the most likely components, there are too many well-documented stories of trips being undertaken with loads of spare parts, only to have the one item for which no part is carried being the cause of a major problem. Additionally, consideration must be given to the tools needed and the mechanical (and increasingly the electronic) knowledge and skill of the driver or crew. The simple question is “where do you stop”?

Of course, all the basics must be covered, like belts, hoses, oil seals, cooling system but a professional pre-trip inspection is absolutely vital. A really competent mechanic with extensive experience of the marque will have the specialist knowledge of what to look for on each vehicle type and model. Here are just a few examples:

- Inspection of every potential source of oil and coolant leaks, including the rear of the engine and replacement of any defective seals, O-rings and hoses.
- Diagnostic tests to determine the health of the engine.
- Check and clearance of all fault codes
- Suspension component check and replacement of any worn bushes, shocks or seals
- Fuel & cooling system testing and repair as required.

By identifying when components and systems have failed, or are nearing the end of their effective life, they can be replaced and/or spares provided, thus eliminating many potential problems that otherwise might occur.

Common spares & back-up equipment

Of course, there will always be “common sense” items to carry – mostly those that could fail or be damaged regardless of how well the vehicle is prepared in advance. The following list is by no means complete, but covers most of the basics:

2 Air filters

2 Oil filters

Fuel filter

Set of hoses

Set of drive belts

2 spare rims & tyres

Tyre repair kit

Engine oil

Transmission fluid

Gear oil

Brake fluid

Water

Radiator sealer

Coolant concentrate

Wheel bearings

Fuses

Headlamp & other bulb replacements

Brake pads

Heater hose

Hose clamps



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