Are you ready to hit the road? A monthly detector operation check may save your life; a couple of minutes of your time could make all the difference. Check the smoke, LP gas and carbon monoxide detector to make sure they are operating properly. Always carry some extra batteries: check that you have the correct sizes. Also if the detectors are over three years old you may want to consider upgrading them.

Make sure you check your spare tire. Your spare tire may not be down on the asphalt, but it is subject to the same con- ditions your regular tires experience. Road debris, road salt and dirt build up, all of which can shorten the life of the spare. Regularly remove and clean the spare tire and wheel; inspect for damage, cracking of tire, air pressure and the manufacturer date of the tire, you don't want any surprises when you need the spare tire.