

# For a smooth ride!

Road trips are great for happy holiday memories. But when travelling with children, the car can become a messy nightmare! Follow these tricks to make the most of your road trip!

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ROAD trips by a family car are most looked forward to by everyone. But when travelling with children and pets, there are high chances of mess and dirt, turning the car into a junkyard. With a few simple tricks though, you can keep the car clean even on your trips.

## Before you start

Be road-trip ready before you start the ignition! Begin your trip with a thoroughly clean car to keep it that way throughout. Though it may seem like a futile idea to clean it beforehand, considering the car will invariably get dirty after a long trip, yet driving a clean car will make you mentally want to keep it that throughout. Clean all the surfaces and wash the windows thoroughly. Throw away old newspapers, magazines, plastic bottles or other litter. Vacuum the car mats, upholstery etc. thoroughly or give the car a nice power wash.

## Bag the trash!

It is important to carry a good amount of empty grocery bags. Hang one bag on the back of the front seat for litter where your kids or passengers sitting on the back seat can throw their trash. Keep another bag handy next to your seat for your trash. Littering the roads is a civic nuisance, so don't encourage that.

Use an old, empty compact tissue



box holder to stuff all the grocery bags and pull them out whenever needed.

The most convenient and handy cleaning material is baby wipes though they can be a little expensive. Alternatively, you can keep a cheaper version by dabbing a drop of sanitizer or a disinfectant liquid on a soft cloth. If you expect a lot of mess in the car due to kids or pets, keep a bottle of handy water spray filled with a soap solution and a clean cloth to immediately clean up.

## Clean and tidy up often

Don't pile up the trash as the trash and clutter can easily build up in a small, confined space. Whenever you take a break for snacks, meals or for filling up the fuel, empty all the trash from time to time.

Before you take a night halt, fold all the blankets, sheets and stack them up. Also, stack up cushions and pillows, keep all the chargers, wires, headphones in their designated place. Throw away any litter like bubblegum wraps, unwanted receipts, ATM statements, old toll bills etc.

It doesn't sound important but this

actually helps in starting a new day fresh compared to opening a messy car in the morning.

## Make rules and follow them

Set the rules for children and ensure they are followed. For instance, some families are particular about not eating in the car which can be a little difficult to follow during road trips, especially with young children. Instead, rules can be bent to only allow non-messy food items. If you allow cold drinks in the car, there will be chances of spilling but by allowing only clear drinks, you can ensure at least that there will be no stains on the car upholstery. But other rules like no feet on dashboard, not eating foods with strong smells in the car should be strictly adhered to.

## Everything in its place

It is really important to have things neatly organised for a long road trip. Keep a separate pouch handy for keeping important documents like toll receipts, insurance or other car papers, emergency contacts etc. that you may need.

Ensure sports items are stored separately in the trunk. Hang one bag on the back of the front seat with children's stuff like books, toys, chocolates and everything they might need during the long drives. This will help to avoid flipping over many other bags to find a packet of chips!

These simple things will help your car stay cleaner and the memories fonder!

## Cupful of germs!

Cup-holders are easily the most ignored part of the cars. They collect a lot of dust and germs. Scrub them clean regularly with a cleaning solution. Better still, use small coasters which can be removed and cleaned easily.

