

# my vehicle checklist

A wise man once said:  
"You start paying for  
a car after you buy it"

A new vehicle can easily cost over \$20,000, and that's not even a fancy one. But a car costs a lot more than just the sticker price.

**Fill Out this worksheet to find out how much your car will REALLY cost you.**

 Vehicle Make \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Model \_\_\_\_\_

 Price\* (includes tax and fees) \_\_\_\_\_

## Monthly Expenses

If financing, how much is your monthly loan payment? \_\_\_\_\_

 How much do you think you'll spend every month on gas? \_\_\_\_\_

 How about parking? (For you city folks!) \_\_\_\_\_

 How much will you spend on car washes? \_\_\_\_\_

 Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_

 **Add it all up for Total Monthly Car Expenses** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(by the way, this should not exceed 25% of your total monthly income!)\*\**

## Periodic Expenses

 How much is your yearly registration fee? \_\_\_\_\_

 How much is your insurance payment? \_\_\_\_\_

 How much is your annual emission test (some states require this)? \_\_\_\_\_

 How much do you think you'll spend on maintenance (oil changes, tire rotations, radiator flush, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

 How much do you think you'll spend on repairs such as brake jobs and flat tires (and possibly more major stuff if you're buying used)? \_\_\_\_\_

 How about cool accessories (audio, tint, seat covers, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

 Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_

 **Add up all your periodic expenses** \_\_\_\_\_

**How much does this add up to over the course of a year?** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Add up the total periodic expenses and monthly expenses for total cost for the year.)*

\*Go online to research cars that you're interested in. You'll find prices for both new and used cars.

\*\*It's very tempting to spend more than this amount, but don't get suckered into buying more car than you can afford.

Did you know that some people wind up spending over half their monthly income just to drive a fancy car? Unfortunately, that's a great recipe for spending one's whole life trying to pay off The Man. But stay within the 25% guideline and you'll be sure to have money for more important things in life. What's more important than a car? You answer that yourself.