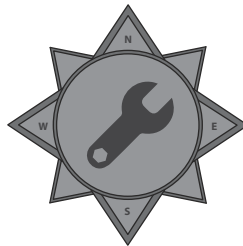


CHECK A CAR'S FLUIDS

If you own a car, you have to do a little maintenance if you want that rig to keep running. The fluids are an important part of a car. If these run dry, it will end your motoring adventure faster than you can imagine. You'll want to do this with an engine that has been shut down for at least ten minutes. Check your vehicle's manual or online for more details.

FLIP OVER FOR YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE



EARN THIS NUGGET

Make an inspection of the fluid levels on two different cars, reporting your findings to the car owner.

LEVEL K

PERIOD 7

TASK 2

First things first, let's pop that hood and get acquainted.

- **Engine Oil.** Pull the dipstick, wipe it clean, re-insert and make sure that the level is between the minimum and maximum. Also check the color--it should be a golden color, black is too dirty, white or foamy means big problems and there is coolant in the oil.

- **Transmission Fluid.** On an automatic car you'll have transmission fluid. Usually tested on a warm car, this also has a dipstick. Remove it, clean it, re-insert it, and pull it out again to read. Check the levels as you did the engine oil. The fluid should be reddish. If it looks black or burned, it should be replaced.

- **Brake fluid.** Brake fluid is in reservoirs that have max and min markers on them. Make a visual inspection. Rule of thumb here is that an apple juice-like color is good. If it looks like a caramel cola, it needs replacing.

- **Power steering fluid.** Like the brake fluid, this should be in another reservoir with a min and max level that you can make a simple observation of without any dismantling.

- **Radiator Coolant.** There will be a reservoir next to the radiator itself. Another visual inspection of the min and max levels should suffice.

- **Windshield washer fluid.** Finally, check the windshield washer fluid level to make sure it's topped up.

