



TASBASH VEHICLE GUIDE

PREPARING YOUR BASH VEHICLE

For vehicle advice when preparing your TasBash vehicle, please call the Variety Office on 03 6248 4888

BASH BREAKDOWNS

Flat tyres, fuel problems and electrical faults cause the most common breakdowns on TasBash.

The idea of the TasBash is that you should be able to do some of the basic things yourself (such as changing a flat tyre), however, do not distress if you cannot. We might also be able to assist with the more complicated and/or larger jobs. As you may have to wait a while until OV2 (Sweep vehicle) comes along, (we will be there as soon as we can but please remember there is only one OV2 and they must stay at the back of the convoy and will get to you as soon as they can. It helps us if some of the initial preparation is done while you are waiting, such as jacking the vehicle up or getting the spares out etc. Always remember to try and pull up in a safe, flat spot and place safety triangles out.

Important: any assistance, fittings, fixtures carried out by the Sweep Crew (OV2) is offered in good-faith and cannot be considered a qualified service. It is your responsibility to have the issue attended to at the first available accredited workshop.

TAIL SHAFT LOOP

This is compulsory on the Bash. The idea is that if the front universal joint breaks, the front of the tail is stopped from hitting the road and acting as a pole vault.

The loop can be made a number of ways. The easiest is to use some inch by eighth steel strap, make a loop under the tail shaft (give it plenty of clearance) and bolt it to the floor. It should be positioned about 6 inches behind the front universal. Another effective method is to use some chain (the size you might padlock some gates together) bolt it to the floor either side of the tail shaft with a loop hanging under the tail shaft.

IN THE ENGINE BAY

As the going is likely to be dusty on TasBash, it is a good idea to get a good quality air cleaner element along with a couple of spares. They should be changed regularly on TasBash. Sand and dust getting into an engine through the air cleaner can do a very rapid job of reboring your engine, and without the necessary larger pistons and rings, can turn your lovely motor into a pile of junk.

The way to avoid fuel problems on TasBash is to ensure your fuel system is top notch. Fit fuel filters before and after the fuel pump. Take along spare filters.

Cooling systems should be thoroughly checked, radiators cleaned, hoses, thermostats and belts replaced if necessary. Thematic fans should be checked to ensure the correct direction of rotation. Radiator stone guards should be of a material that causes minimal disruption to air flow.

ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS

To reduce the chances of problems it is wise to get your car looked over by an auto electrician. Frayed wiring should be replaced or at least taped up and the generator, alternator, and starter checked over.

Take along basic spares such as points, plugs, condenser, even a rotor, coil, and distributor cap.

Make sure the battery is very secure and the battery holder is not rusted away. Take along a spare fan belt and power steering belt if fitted.



UNDER BONNETT

Remove radiator cap if rusty looking, flush and add coolant on a cold engine (no start up), squeeze all rubber hoses i.e. top and bottom radiator hoses and heater hoses, if they are hard or if they are really soft replace the hoses. Check colour of the engine oil, if the engine oil is black and thick, change the oil and filter.

Remove break cylinder cap if dark or black colour. Have your mechanic flush the brake fluid. Check all belts to see if there are any cracks inside of the belt or if they are completely black in colour (keep old belts as spares). Look at the battery terminals, if on inspection there is any growth of acid build up you may need a new battery. Remove with hot water – remove terminals from battery and clean both terminals battery posts with light sand paper and refit.

INSIDE CAR

While stationary pull on hand brake, if it extends to full this means your rear breaks are worn or your hand break cable needs adjusting and your rear brakes also need adjusting. Check break pedal for travel, you should only move 1 inch if applied. If you move more seek professional advice. Get help from friends to check all lights are operational – do not forget to check the horn and number plate light are working.

GOOD PREP

- Check window wipers are working, and wiper blades are soft and working well.
- Dust light (white) rear to be as high as possible.
- Orange flashers.
- Raised break lights.
- CB Radio.
- Numbers for window (car number).
- Safety triangles
- First Aid Kit.
- Spares – belts, oil hoses, auto trans fluid, break fluid, water (easy wine bladder is easy to pack full of water).
- Good spare tyre.
- Good working jack.
- Jack support (solid plank wood).
- Wheel brace.

OPTIONAL

- GPS travel distance.
- Chain engine mounts.
- Tail shaft strap.
- Bash plate (sump).
- Front tow bar.
- Siren (nice for children at school visits).
- Snatch strap (highly recommended).
- Panadol.
- Clipboard & several pens.

FRONT & REAR TOW BALL 50mm

A compulsory fitting on a bash car are 50mm tow balls fitted front and back this is so that we can tow a broken vehicle into the nearest place of repair with the straight bars that all workshops carry. These bars have trailer hitches on both the ends are a lot safer than towropes.

The back end is easy; just get a normal tow bar. A bit of thought needs to go into the front to ensure that the tow ball is mounted on a substantial part of the car such as a sub frame. Do not make the mistake of mounting it off centre, as the car will be a lot harder to drive undertow.



TOOL KIT

Nothing too large, an assortment of screwdrivers, shifter, small ring and open-end spanners, pliers, side cutters, pocketknife, racer tape, electrical tape, some small and medium size cable ties, a pair of multi-grips, and some insulated wire of the size used in cars.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT – COMPULSORY

1. First Aid Kit – Try and make sure it exceeds specifications... a \$10.00 kit just simply will not cut it. Look to the St Johns Ambulance Australia website for the **Motoring First Aid Kit – Product Code 677401**.
2. A safety reflective triangle is required plus a hi-visibility jacket or vest.

WATER

You must carry four litres of water. It can be in one container or in several containers.

JACK

A jack, appropriate to the height of your vehicle is needed together with a jack plate to prevent the jack sinking into soft ground. A piece of solid wood is ideal. Don't forget the wheel brace.

REAR DUST LAMP

Fitting of the rear dust lamp (white light) to the rear of the vehicle to be turned on while trawling on dusty roads to enable the following car to detect you. The light must be wired to a manual switch, when not required on sealed roads.

ORANGE FLASHING LIGHTS AND SIRENS

These are not compulsory but do add to the enjoyment of the event and add excitement to the school visits.

RAISED BREAK LIGHTS

Raised break lights cause a safety issue.

CB RADIO

CB Radios are compulsory along with the safety and enjoyment. They aide in communication and passing time with officials and other bashers.

EXHAUST SYSTEM

Please be mindful of any exhaust leaks: visual and audio check.

FLUID LEAKS

Always check under vehicle for leaks after being stationary for some time. Also check inside each wheel for detection of any possible fluid leaks.

TYRES & SPARE TYRE

Check all tyres are at more than minimal depth – 1.6mm. Along all face of the tyre. Check the pressure of the spare tyre.

BRAKE/CLUTCH MASTER CYLINDER

Check behind both brake and clutch master cylinders for traces of blistered paint on the firewall – indicates fluid leaks behind the cylinders.

ENGINE SUPPORT

Highly recommend chains from engine mounts to front and rear of a suitable chassis point to stop engine movement in case of a broken engine mounting.

GPS OR SIMILAR

Your bash route to follow will require a very accurate speedo, we suggest a GPS or similar unit to help you (get lost). A phone app may be suitable also.



WAGON TYPE VEHICLES

If using a wagon type vehicle, it is strongly recommended a fitting of a cargo barrier for safety.

BASH PLATE (SUMP GUARD)

Bash plates are not compulsory but highly recommended.

MUDFLAPS

Highly recommended for safety on following bash cars.

SMOKE AND WATER

Any smoke or water omitting from your vehicle (banned full stop).

BASH CAR NUMBERS

All Bash cars are required to have a theme and car numbers, you may choose your own number. Numbers are required to be displayed on the front and rear. 100mm on windows, this helps officials identify cars.

YOUR VEHICLE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. We will not be doing vehicle checks prior to the start. However, we reserve the right to check your vehicle at any time. If the Sweep or Bash Director are in any doubt they can postpone or cancel your start.

REMEMBER TO ROAD TEST YOUR VEHICLE IN ITS FULLY LOADED STATE BEFORE TASBASH!