

# THE 1998 FORD EXPLORER CUSTOMER GUIDE

**14 Helpful Hints To  
Enhance Driver  
Satisfaction**





Dear Explorer Owner,

The Explorer Plant Vehicle Team would like to thank you for your purchase of a new 1998 Ford Explorer. Your Explorer is the best selling sport utility vehicle in America for seven years running.

To help you better understand some of the Explorer's features, we are mailing you this Explorer Customer Guide to answer some frequently asked questions. Please take some time to review these items and become better acquainted with your Explorer.

If, after reading this guide, you still have questions you may contact your dealer or call the Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-392-3673.

Once again, thanks for your purchase. Your new Explorer will allow you to "go anywhere and do anything" for many years to come.

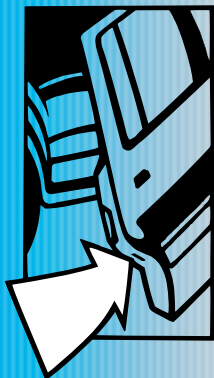
Sincerely,

The Explorer Plant Vehicle Team

**Y**our new Explorer offers many features, some standard and some optional, that are designed for your safety, convenience and satisfaction. This booklet will help you understand and use them to their full potential so that you may get the maximum satisfaction from using your vehicle.

- 1. Childproof rear door locks**
- 2. SecuriLock™ Anti-theft System**
- 3. Reprogram key FOB**
- 4. Vehicle fuel fill**
- 5. Tire rotation**
- 6. Wiper quality requires cleaning**
- 7. Control-Trac 4-wheel drive**
- 8. Ride and handling (tires)**
- 9. Fuel cap not properly seated**
- 10. Rear console audio controls**
- 11. Selective lighting on audio system**
- 12. Inside rearview mirror**
- 13. Four-wheel ABS**
- 14. Moonroof operation**

Roadside Assistance 1-800-241-FORD (U.S.)



# 1

## **CHILDPROOF REAR DOOR LOCKS**

This is a standard safety feature designed to keep children from accidentally opening the rear doors. The small levers used

to activate the locks are located on the inside back edge of each rear door.

- When the lever is in the up position, that door can only be opened from the outside.
- When the lever is down, both the inside and outside door handles will open the doors.



## 2

## SECURILOCK™ ANTI-THEFT SYSTEM

The SecuriLock™ anti-theft system provides an advanced level of vehicle theft protection. Your vehicle's engine can only be started with the two special SecuriLock™ electronically coded keys provided with your vehicle. Each time you start your vehicle, the SecuriLock™ key is read by the SecuriLock™ anti-theft system. If the SecuriLock™ key identification code matches the code stored in the SecuriLock™ anti-theft system, the vehicle's engine is allowed to start. If the SecuriLock™ key identification code does not match the code stored in the system or if a SecuriLock™ key is not detected (vehicle theft situation), the vehicle's engine will not operate.

Spare SecuriLock™ keys can be purchased from and programmed by your dealer. Refer to "Programming Spare SecuriLock™ Keys" for more information.

If one or both of your SecuriLock™ keys are lost or stolen and you want to ensure the lost or stolen key will not operate your vehicle, bring your vehicle and all available SecuriLock™ keys to your dealership for reinitialization.

### ***Theft Indicator***

The theft indicator on the instrument cluster will operate as follows:

- When the ignition is OFF, the theft indicator will flash briefly every 2 seconds to indicate the SecuriLock™ system is protecting your vehicle.
- When the ignition is turned to RUN or START, the theft indicator will light for 3 seconds and then go out. If the theft indicator stays on for an extended period of time or flashes rapidly, have the system serviced by your dealership or a qualified technician.



# 3

## REPROGRAM KEY FOB

**DURING VEHICLE OWNERSHIP**, it may be necessary to reprogram the remote transmitters using the following procedure:

- ① **All vehicle transmitters must be reprogrammed together.**
- ② Place key in ignition and rapidly turn from OFF to ON positions 8 times within 10 seconds *finishing in ON position*. **Do not engage starter.**
- ③ If doors do not automatically lock/unlock, repeat step 2.
- ④ Press one button on every transmitter. Turn ignition to LOCK and remove key. Check the operation of all transmitters.

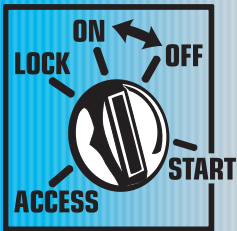
### Positions of the Ignition

ACCESSORY LOCK – allows key insertion/removal.

OFF – shuts engine off.

ON – all electrical circuits operational. Warning lights illuminate. Key position when driving.

START – engages starter.

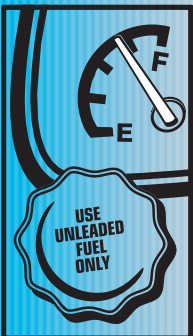


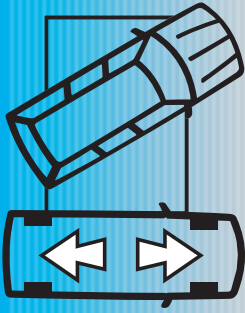
## VEHICLE FUEL FILL

# 4

Be sure to turn the engine off when refueling the vehicle. Otherwise, the fuel gauge will only register 3/4 full when the pump shuts off.

Furthermore, there is a reservoir in your fuel tank to capture emissions. To ensure its usefulness, do not add fuel to the tank after the pump has shut off. If fuel is added to the tank after the pump shuts off, the amber “Check Engine” light may illuminate.





5

## TIRE ROTATION

To prolong a smooth, comfortable ride and maintain optimum tire wear, it's important to ensure that your first tire rotation occurs at 5,000 miles/8,000 km.

After the first rotation, tires should be rotated every 10,000 miles/16,000 km.

For your convenience and satisfaction, we have included a coupon for a no charge tire rotation.



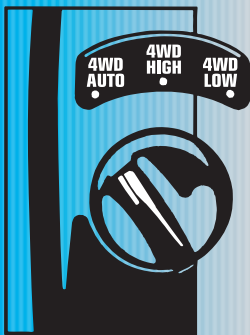
6

## WIPER QUALITY REQUIRES CLEANING

For prolonged wiper quality, occasional cleaning is required. To clean, wipe the rubber wiper element with an alcohol-

based solution or washer fluid and rinse with water at every refueling. Inspect the blades periodically and replace if worn.

For your convenience and satisfaction, we have included a coupon for a no charge set of replacement wiper blades, including installation.



# 7

## CONTROL-TRAC 4-WHEEL DRIVE

Please review the “Four Wheeling” pamphlet included with the 4x4 Owner’s Manual.

**AWD (optional on 5.0L ONLY)** is fully automatic and does not require a switch to activate.

**Control-Trac System (optional on 4.0L ONLY)** has a rotary switch to allow the operator to select the desired function.

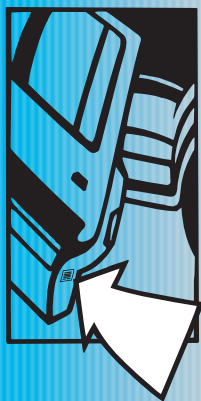
### Recommended Use —

**4x4 Auto Mode:** Should be used at all times except for off-road or heavy snow conditions.

**4x4 High Mode:** Use only for off-road or for heavy snow accumulations on roads.

**4x4 Low Mode:** Use only for extreme off-road conditions (e.g. sand) or for pulling heavy loads for a short distance (e.g. on a boat ramp).

**To Engage/Disengage 4x4 Low:** The unit must be in neutral and your foot must be on the brake pedal (electrical interlock). A slight “clunk” noise may be heard as the transfer case shifts gears.

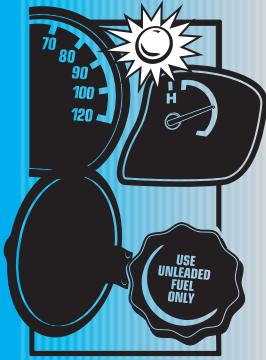


# 8

## RIDE AND HANDLING (TIRES)

Inflating the tires beyond the recommended level may result in a harsh ride.

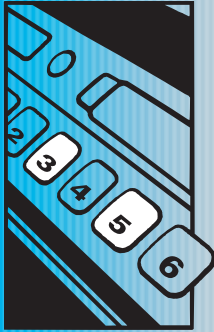
Air pressure settings for your vehicle are printed on the label located below the door latch at the rear of the driver’s door. Do not inflate to the pressure stated on the side of the tires.



# 9

## FUEL CAP NOT PROPERLY SEATED

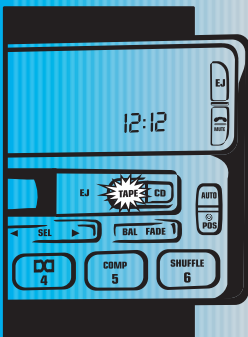
If your fuel cap is not fully secured after fueling your vehicle, the amber “Check Engine” light may illuminate. If this occurs, turn off the engine, remove the fuel filler cap and reinstall it turning clockwise until it stops. This will be indicated by a single click sound.



# 10

## REAR CONSOLE AUDIO CONTROLS

If your vehicle is equipped with a High Series Console, you may have experienced your selected radio stations changing as if by magic. Passengers in the rear seat, using the rear audio controls, may be the culprits. By depressing the 3 and 5 buttons on the radio simultaneously you can deactivate the rear control. To reactivate, repeat the same function.

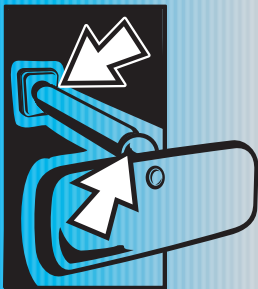


# 11

## SELECTIVE LIGHTING ON AUDIO SYSTEM

Radios with both cassette and CD players feature lighting that illuminates only the buttons needed for the feature in use.

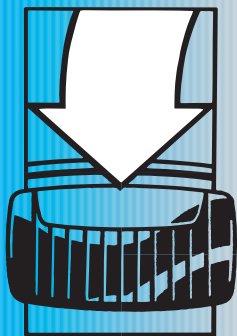




# 12

## INSIDE REARVIEW MIRROR

The inside mirror has two adjustments, one at the windshield mounting area and one at the mirror. These adjustments together can keep the mirror in an optimal position.

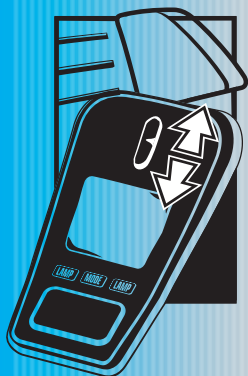


# 13

## FOUR-WHEEL ABS

Four-wheel ABS is a standard safety feature that helps prevent wheel lockup when the brakes are firmly applied or when braking on slick surfaces.

- When ABS is working, you may feel a small pulsation in the brake pedal and hear a slight mechanical noise. This is perfectly normal and means the system is doing its job.
- Do not pump the brakes. This will only increase your stopping distance.
- Your vehicle is equipped with a premium quality brake system to assure optimum brake performance. Occasionally you may experience a squeak, particularly after the vehicle has been sitting for a period of time, e.g. overnight.



# 14

## MOONROOF OPERATION

If your vehicle is equipped with a moonroof, you can move the moonroof back to open the glass panel or tilt it up to ventilate the vehicle.

### TO OPEN:

The moonroof is equipped with an automatic, one-touch, express opening feature. To open the moonroof, press and release the rear portion of the roof console switch. The moonroof will stop short of the full open position. To fully open the moonroof (if desired), press and hold the rear portion of the roof console switch. To halt motion at any point during the one-touch opening, press the switch a second time.

### TO CLOSE:

To close the moonroof, press and continue holding the front portion of the roof console switch until the glass panel stops moving. Once fully closed, the rear of the glass panel will appear to be higher than the front edge.

### TO VENT:

To tilt the rear of the moonroof upward into the vent position (when the glass panel is closed), press and hold the front portion of the roof console switch. To close the moonroof from the vent position, press and continue holding the rear portion of the roof console switch until the glass panel stops moving.

If the power has been interrupted (i.e.: the battery has been disconnected), then press and release the front portion of the roof console switch. Operation will resume to normal.

The moonroof has a sliding shade that can be opened or closed when the glass panel is shut. To close the shade, pull it toward the front of the vehicle.

## **A WORD ABOUT MAINTENANCE**

All vehicles require certain scheduled maintenance procedures to protect them and help them retain their performance. In your new Explorer, the following routine under-hood maintenance areas are yellow color coded for easy identification:

- Engine Oil Fill/Level
- Radiator Coolant
- Power Steering
- Transmission Fluid
- Washer Fluid

## **ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE**

Every new Ford, Mercury and Lincoln includes the assurance of an emergency no-cost Roadside Assistance Program provided by Ford Auto Club, Inc., during the 3-year/36,000-mile (60,000 km) bumper-to-bumper warranty period. Help is just a toll-free phone call away 1-800-241-FORD, 24-hours-a-day, anywhere in the 50 United States should you need any towing assistance, fuel delivery, tire change, a jump start, or even help when you're locked out of your car. Ask your Ford, Mercury or Lincoln Dealer for complete details on the Ford Roadside Assistance Program and also for a copy of this limited warranty.

## **VISIT OUR WEB SITES**

You may enjoy visiting these web sites for information on products and accessories to use with your Ford Explorer:

- Accessories: [www.ford.com/showrooms/accessories/](http://www.ford.com/showrooms/accessories/)
- Ford Explorer: [www.fordvehicles.com/explorer/](http://www.fordvehicles.com/explorer/)
- Customer Service: [www.ford.com/customerservice/](http://www.ford.com/customerservice/)

# ***No Charge Tire Rotation!***

This Coupon is valid for a *No Charge  
Tire Rotation* at your Ford,  
Mercury or Lincoln Dealer on your  
1998 Ford Explorer.

This offer valid beginning  
September 1, 1998 through  
February 28, 2000.

**QualityCare**  
at your service



From Ford and Lincoln Mercury Dealers

# ***No Charge Wiper Blades!***

This Coupon is valid for a set of ***No Charge  
Wiper Blades***, including installation,  
at your Ford, Mercury or Lincoln Dealer on your  
1998 Ford Explorer.

This offer valid beginning  
September 1, 1998 through  
February 28, 2000.

**QualityCare**  
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