

# Keep It Clean: Tips for a Tidy Car

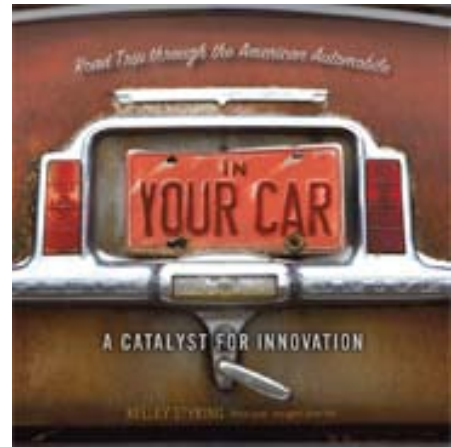
When consumer marketing strategist [Kelley Styring](#) pulled on her latex gloves and dug into cars all across America, she found that most vehicles lack an integrated trash system. As a result, most cars are rolling dumpsters, full of trash and other debris, she reports in her book *In Your Car: Road Trip through the American Automobile*.

Styring offers a few tips for keeping the junk out of your trunk:

- 1) **Add a Trash Can.** A small box or can works well on the floor of a van or behind the passenger seat. If you can't fit something in the car, cut the top off a cereal box and stuff it under the driver's seat where you can reach it.
- 2) **Be Sensible with Storage.** When deciding to store something in the car, ask yourself three questions: 1) How will I find this when I need it? 2) Do I really need this while I'm driving? and 3) Will this item work properly when I need it if I keep it in the car?
- 3) **Plus One.** Each time you leave the car, look around and pick one thing to throw away or carry into the house in addition to what you're already carrying.
- 4) **You Brought It In, You Take It Out.** Often, it's other people's stuff that clutters our vehicles. Make the kids take all of their belongings with them into the house when you get home, even if it takes two trips.
- 5) **Add a Stuff Box.** Put a box or basket in the back seat or trunk for all the things that need to go back in the house. Take it into the house every Friday.
- 6) **Fuel Up, Clean Up.** When you stop to fill up the gas tank, do a quick look through the vehicle, especially the trunk. Throw away the trash and put stuff that needs to go back in the house in the Stuff Box.

For more information, go to [www.insightfarm.com](http://www.insightfarm.com). *In Your Car: Road Trip through the American Automobile* is available through [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [Barnes&Noble.com](http://Barnes&Noble.com).

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