



RC Beginner Setup Checklist (2025 Edition)

RC Car Essentials

- Ready-to-Run (RTR) RC vehicle (pre-assembled, includes electronics)
- 2.4GHz Radio transmitter and receiver (usually included with RTR)
- Electronic Speed Controller (ESC) and brushed/brushless motor (included)
- Rechargeable battery pack (NiMH or LiPo - verify compatibility)
- Compatible battery charger (smart charger recommended)
- AA batteries for transmitter (typically 4 to 8 required)
- Instruction manual (read this before your first run!)

Battery & Power Tips

- Use a LiPo-safe balance charger if using LiPo batteries
- Store batteries in a fireproof LiPo bag or container
- Never charge unattended or on flammable surfaces
- Let batteries cool down before and after charging
- Avoid running batteries below their minimum voltage (check ESC settings)
- Have at least two battery packs for extended sessions
- Use a voltage checker to monitor battery levels

Must-Have Tools

- Metric hex driver set (1.5mm, 2.0mm, 2.5mm, 3.0mm)
- Cross and flathead screwdrivers
- Needle-nose pliers and cutting pliers
- Wheel nut wrench (usually 7mm or 8mm)
- Turnbuckle wrench (for suspension adjustments)
- Soldering iron (optional for wire repairs or upgrades)
- Cleaning brush, microfiber cloths, and isopropyl alcohol
- Magnetic parts tray to keep hardware organized

Recommended Spare Parts

- Extra body clips (these go missing often!)
- Spare set of wheels/tires
- Replacement suspension arms (commonly broken in crashes)
- Extra pinion gear(s) for gearing changes
- Extra servo (for steering failures)



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- Driveshafts, hubs, and shock parts (depending on model)

Optional Upgrades

- Brushless motor and ESC combo (for higher performance)
- 2S or 3S LiPo battery upgrade (check compatibility)
- Metal drivetrain components (for durability)
- Adjustable aluminum shocks
- High-speed steering servo
- Aluminum or carbon fiber chassis parts
- LED light kit for nighttime driving
- Custom painted body shell

Basic Maintenance Routine

- Clean the car after every few runs - remove dust, grass, and dirt
- Check and tighten all screws before each use
- Inspect suspension and drivetrain for wear or damage
- Lubricate gears and bearings with hobby-grade grease/oil
- Check tire wear and re-glue if necessary
- Balance LiPo batteries before charging
- Monitor ESC and motor temps (avoid overheating)

Pro Tips

- Always turn the transmitter on before the RC car, and off after the car
- Ease into acceleration and braking - sharp inputs can cause flips or breakages
- Label your batteries and charger leads to avoid confusion
- Keep a dedicated RC tool bag or storage box for everything
- Record your runs - helps track performance and progress
- Join a local RC club or forum for tips, troubleshooting, and events