

Vehicle Maintenance Checks

What to do and why



Screenwash

Check your screenwash regularly. Use a good additive throughout both summer and winter, as water alone won't clear oily road grime and it freezes more readily in winter.



Wipers

Wiper blades wear down over time and smear the windscreen if they become worn, so they should be checked regularly and replaced when necessary.



Windscreen

Minor chips caused by stone damage can grow and crack the glass. However, if reported as early as possible, they can often be repaired by a windscreen specialist.



Lights

Check all lights weekly, including indicators, brake and fog lights. You should also clean them regularly as dirt can seriously impair their performance. Adjust lights to prevent dazzling other drivers, especially if the vehicle is heavily loaded.



Warning displays

Warning lights will be illuminated when you turn the ignition key and all except the handbrake warning light will go out when the engine starts. If they don't or if they come on while you're driving, stop safely and investigate the problem.

If the charge warning light comes on while you're driving it may mean the battery isn't charging, so check this as soon as possible to avoid loss of power to lights and other electrical systems.



Toolkit

If your car has a spare tyre, you should also have a jack and wheel removal tools. Familiarise yourself with the jacking points used to lift the car safely and make sure the toolkit includes the key or removal tool. Many new vehicles now come with a puncture repair kit (sealant and compressor) instead of a spare tyre - ensure you check your vehicle for this.



Tyres

Under-inflated tyres increase fuel consumption and can be dangerous, so tyre pressure should be checked every two weeks (including spare tyres). You should check your tread depth at the same time. The legal tread limit is 1.6mm across the central three-quarters with visible tread over the remainder.



Engine oil

Check the oil level regularly, we suggest every two weeks and more frequently if going on long journeys. The oil and filter should be changed in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.



Water

Check the coolant level and top-up as necessary when the engine is cold.



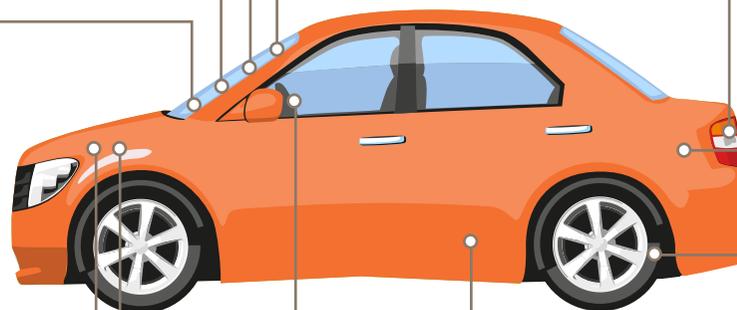
Power steering

You should check the fluid reservoir once a month and it should be checked at every service. Only top up using the hydraulic fluid advised in the handbook.



Bodywork

If there is any damage to bodywork it should be reported immediately to prevent rust setting in. Many cars also have extended bodywork warranty schemes, which may require annual inspection at the dealer.



REMEMBER TO GET YOUR SERVICE BOOK STAMPED AFTER EVERY SERVICE