

PRE-DRIVE CHECKS

Basic and regular vehicle maintenance is essential for looking after the health of your vehicle as well as keeping you safe on the road. Use the 'POWDERY' acronym to remember the essential checks.



Basic vehicle maintenance should be completed before the start of any long journey and regularly (weekly or monthly) if you drive for work, depending on your usual business mileage. **However, you should also conduct simple, visual 'pre-drive checks' before every journey.** Improper vehicle maintenance can not only result in an unwanted breakdown but puts you and other road users at risk. Carrying out simple pre-drive checks is an easy way to minimize these risks. **These pre-drive checks can also be remembered using the POWDERY acronym.**

- P** **Power** - Make sure you have enough range on your vehicle before your journey. Running out of fuel or charge is not only a major inconvenience, but it can also be incredibly dangerous. If you get stranded in the middle of the road you are putting yourself, your passengers, and other road users at serious risk.
- O** **Oil** - Check your vehicle handbook to find out whether the manufacturer recommends you check the oil level when the engine is cold or warm. Before any journey, check under your vehicle for visual signs of leakage and also check for warning lights on your dashboard.
- W** **Water** - Regularly ensure the water levels in your radiator and windscreen washer bottle are appropriately filled. As part of your daily checks, check for signs of leakage as well as any dashboard warnings. This includes Coolant, brake fluid, power steering and AdBlue® (Mainly for diesel vehicles).
- D** **Damage** - Check your bodywork, wheels and fixtures like mirrors and windows for any signs of damage. Remember that small chips on your windscreen can usually be repaired before they become cracks.
- E** **Electrics** - Prior to driving, ensure that all headlights, indicators and hazard warning lights are in good, working order and clean. You should also check your horn regularly.
- R** **Rubber** - Check your tyre pressures, tread and depth regularly, especially before a long journey. You should check your tyres and wiper blades for any signs of damage, as well as any sign of tyre deflation before any journey.
- Y** **Yourself** - Driving is a skill that requires your concentration and good judgement. Ensure you are fit to drive before completing a journey and do not drive if you feel fatigued, unwell or are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

As a driver, you are responsible for making sure your vehicle is safe to be driven on the road
You shouldn't just rely on your routine servicing to maintain your vehicle; pre-drive checks should be a daily routine

HOW TO CARRY OUT ESSENTIAL VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

It is important that drivers understand how to properly carry out safe and effective vehicle checks and maintenance.

We should remember that every vehicle is slightly different and drivers should always refer to their vehicle manual for detailed instructions on how to maintain their specific vehicle.

Below you will find an overview of general steps drivers can take to look after their vehicle.



CHECKING AND MAINTAINING YOUR VEHICLE

• TYRE TREAD



Always check the pressure of your tyre's and for adequate tread - you can get a tool to do this. Inspect the full circumference of the tyres including the inner and outer crown. Check for signs of uneven wear, embedded foreign objects, tear, cuts or bulges.

• OIL LEVEL



The engine must be off, cool and on a level surface. Find the colored handle of the dipstick which is normally identified with a yellow handle. Remove the stick and wipe it clean. Reinsert the dipstick then withdraw again to see oil line in relation to min and max levels.

• WINDSCREEN WASH



Find your reservoir. This is usually identified with a blue cap. Refer to your vehicle manual if unsure. Remove the cap and top up the washer bottle with a quality brand windscreen wash.

• ENGINE COOLANT



Never remove the cap when the engine is hot. You must ensure the engine is cool, otherwise hot coolant can spray out causing burns. Find your coolant filler cap by checking your vehicle manual. Once located, check that the coolant level sits within the 'min' and 'max' lines.

• LIGHTS



Put headlights and hazard lights on when parked in a safe place. Walk around the vehicle to check lights are working. Use reflections to check your brake lights are working or ask someone to check for you.

• TYRE PRESSURE



You can check tyre pressure in places like petrol stations or at home using a pressure gauge. Refer to your vehicle manual or sticker on the bodywork for correct pressure. Use a suitable pump and be careful not to over-inflate the tyre - check the pressure regularly.

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