

Advice on checking your vehicle before a long journey

Check your car

Clean windows, mirrors, and lights

Carry washer fluid, glass cleaner, de-icer, and cloths, ice scraper. Replace windscreen wipers if worn.

Check lights work before driving

Ask a friend to help.

Check tyre pressures

When the tyres are cold check the pressures once a week. Your vehicle's handbook will tell you the right pressure. (Don't forget the spare!) If in doubt, consult a garage or tyre specialist.

Check tyre tread once a month

If you are a high mileage driver, check your tyre tread more frequently. Car tyres have 'tread wear indicator' bars, which are small ridges set into the main grooves. These indicate the legal minimum tread. If you cannot find them look for the letters TWI on your tyre wall or ask a garage. Change tyres before they reach this point. The legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm for cars, but less than 3mm is risky in wet or icy weather. Also check for bulges and cracks.

Warning lights

After you start your vehicle warning lights should go off. If a light stays on, do not drive. Consult a garage.

This is a legal requirement for all vehicles except new ones. It is also important to service your vehicle according to the manufacturer's guidelines - it will retain its value better and ensure it is safe.