

MOTORLOOM

UK Car Health Checklist

25 essential checks every UK driver should do regularly

FREE

motorloom.co.uk

Instant Diagnostic

Report — £1.99

Use this checklist monthly or before a long journey. Tick each item as you complete it. If you find something wrong, run a MotorLoom diagnostic at motorloom.co.uk for £1.99 — get likely fault causes, UK repair costs and MOT risk instantly.

■ FLUIDS & LEVELS

Engine Oil Level

Check dipstick when engine cold. Should be between MIN and MAX marks.

Engine Oil Condition

Oil on dipstick should be amber/brown — black or gritty means it needs changing.

Coolant Level

Check expansion tank when cold. Should be between MIN and MAX. Never open when hot.

Brake Fluid Level

Check reservoir under bonnet. Should be between MIN and MAX marks.

Power Steering Fluid

If applicable — check reservoir dipstick. Low level can cause heavy steering.

Windscreen Washer Fluid

Top up with proper screen wash — water alone freezes and can damage pump.

■ TYRES & WHEELS

Tyre Tread Depth

UK legal minimum is 1.6mm. Use a 20p coin — if the outer band shows, tyres need replacing.

Tyre Pressure

Check cold with a gauge. See door sill or handbook for correct PSI. Don't forget spare.

Tyre Sidewall Condition

Look for bulges, cracks or cuts. Any bulge = immediate replacement needed.

Uneven Tyre Wear

Wear on one edge suggests misalignment. Wear in centre suggests over-inflation.

Wheel Nut Tightness

If recently had wheels off, check nuts are secure. Use a torque wrench if possible.

Spare Tyre / Puncture Kit

Check spare is inflated or puncture kit is in date and intact.

■ BRAKES & SAFETY



Brake Pedal Feel

Should feel firm. Spongy pedal suggests air in fluid or worn pads.



Brake Noise

Squealing = wear indicator. Grinding = metal on metal. Both need immediate attention.



Brake Fluid Colour

Should be pale yellow. Dark brown/black means it needs replacing.



Handbrake Effectiveness

Should hold car on a hill with 3-4 clicks. More clicks = needs adjusting.



Brake Warning Light

If lit continuously (not just on startup), get brakes checked immediately.

■ LIGHTS & ELECTRICS



All Headlights Working

Check main beam, dipped and sidelights. Walk round car with lights on.



Brake Lights Working

Reverse near a wall or ask someone to check while you press the pedal.



Indicators Front & Rear

Check all four corners plus the side repeaters.



Number Plate Lights

Often forgotten — failure is an instant MOT fail.



Battery Condition

Slow starting, dim lights or warning light = battery may need testing or replacing.



Warning Lights on Dash

Any warning light that stays on after starting needs investigating.

■ ENGINE & UNDER BONNET



Temperature Gauge Normal

Should reach normal operating temp and stay there. Overheating = stop immediately.



No Unusual Smells

Burning smell, fuel smell or sweet smell (coolant) all indicate problems.



No Fluid Leaks Under Car

Check ground after parking. Oil = dark patch, coolant = sweet smelling, brighter colour.



Air Filter Condition

Clogged air filter reduces performance and fuel economy. Replace every 15-20k miles.

■ MOT PREPARATION CHECKS



Horn Working

Press and hold — must be continuous tone. Failure = immediate MOT fail.



Wipers & Washers

Blades must clear screen effectively. No streaks or missed patches.



Seatbelts All Working

Check all belts pull out and retract smoothly. Check buckles click securely.



Mirrors Intact & Adjusted

All mirrors must be present, undamaged and adjustable.

Found something wrong during your checks?

Run a MotorLoom diagnostic for £1.99 — get likely fault causes, UK repair costs, MOT risk and questions to ask your mechanic.

motorloom.co.uk/advice.php