

## 34. Vehicle safety

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A breakdown, at best, is an inconvenience, at worst it can leave you stranded in the middle of nowhere, make you late for an appointment, or stuck with no help for miles around. In short, breakdowns can leave you vulnerable and create all sorts of problems - breakdowns should be avoided!

The best way to avoid breakdowns is to plan not to break down. You can do this by carrying out a series of quick and easy vehicle checks and by having your car serviced at the regular intervals recommended by the manufacturer. A few minutes each week can greatly reduce the risk of a breakdown. During your driving test, the examiner will test your knowledge of some of the basic safety checks that you should make regularly.

**Daily vehicle checks:** Every day you should make sure that the following items are clean:

- Windows
- Mirrors
- Lights
- Rear red reflectors
- Indicators
- Number plates



What poor maintenance  
can do for your car!

Keeping these items clean will mean that you can see other drivers and other drivers can see you! (The law requires that your number plates must be clean and visible at all times and that you have a clear view from the vehicle) You should also check the correct operation of the following:

- Headlights
- Parking lights
- Brake lights
- Horn
- Windscreen wipers
- Windscreen washers
- Brakes



What poor car maintenance  
can do for you!

It is illegal to drive a car if any of the items listed above are not working correctly.

You should also make a quick visual check of the tyres each day and check the tyre pressures weekly. For the daily check, walk around the car and look for any obvious tyre damage. Don't wait until your tyre bursts at 60 mph!

### Lesson Notes:

