

METHODICAL, THOROUGH, AND QUICK VEHICLE CHECKING**USE THE 'POWDERY' MNEMONIC TO CARRY OUT PERIODIC VEHICLE CHECKS**

- **'P' IS FOR PETROL** or fuel and this should be checked before every journey to avoid breakdown
- **'O' FOR OIL**
- **'W' FOR WATER.** Windscreen wash including additive, radiator expansion tanks and other fluids such as brake fluid and power steering (Most vehicle now have transparent tanks so no need to remove caps etc.) **NEVER REMOVE THE CAP ON A RADIATOR TANK IF THE ENGINE IS WARM AS THIS CAN CAUSE SCALDING THROUGH ESCAPING STEAM!**
- **'D' FOR DAMAGE.** As you walk round the vehicle check for any bodywork damage that could either be dangerous or illegal and needs reporting for repair
- **'E' FOR ELECTRICS.** Make sure all **bulbs** are working and that the **horn** is working and the vehicle **demister/ACU** or climate control is in working order
- **'R' FOR RUBBER.** Check **tyres** for even wear, legal tread depth, and for proper inflation (including spare if fitted). Ensure **wiper blades** are in good condition
- **'Y' FOR YOU.** Are you fit to drive, are you tired, stressed or emotionally upset? **REMEMBER YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE VEHICLE**

The above guidance is not meant to turn you into a vehicle mechanic and does not need to be carried out every time you drive. It is merely a method which, if carried out on a regular basis in a methodical way, will detect problems before they cause breakdowns. These problems can then be dealt with by a skilled technician. To check brake light bulbs if you are alone reverse up to a wall or similar and apply brakes whilst looking through your mirrors. Modern motor cars are packed with technology to tell that your car is healthy, but don't take technology for granted as even this can fail.

YOU SHOULD CHECK YOUR VEHICLE USING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES.

IF YOU DRIVE:

- Less than 5,000 miles per year, check monthly
- Between 5,000 and 10,000 miles per year, check every two weeks
- Over 10,000 miles per year, check weekly

e.g. The maximum fine that a court can impose for using a vehicle with a defective tyre is £2,500 and three penalty points (£5,000 in the case of a goods vehicle or a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry more than eight passengers). If a vehicle is fitted with more than one defective tyre, you can be summonsed for each tyre that is illegal. Disqualification is also possible in certain circumstances.