

Safety and Your Vehicle Facts List



Tyres

- 1 Underinflated tyres would cause problems with braking and steering
- 2 The legal minimum tread depth for car tyres is 1.6 millimetres
- 3 Your car tyres should not have any cuts or bulges
- 4 Tyre pressures should be checked when they are cold
- 5 If you see parts of the tread on your tyre that are wearing out before other parts are, it may mean that you have a braking, suspension or wheel alignment fault
- 6 If your cars wheels are unbalanced the steering will vibrate
- 7 Turning the steering wheel when the car isn't moving can cause damage to the tyres and to the steering mechanism

Journey Planning

- 8 You can use a route planner on the internet to plan a route before starting a long journey. Always allow plenty of time for your journeys
- 9 When planning your journey, try to plan to travel outside of the normal busy times of the day. This way you will have fewer delays and you will get to your destination feeling less stressed
- 10 Planning an alternative route is a good idea. Your original route may be blocked for some reason

Fuel Consumption

- 11 You will use 15% more fuel by driving at 70 mph compared to driving at 50 mph
- 12 Using your controls smoothly can reduce fuel consumption by about 15%
- 13 Using controls smoothly can also reduce wear and tear of your vehicle

14 Plan ahead and anticipate changes of speed well in advance, to reduce the need to accelerate rapidly or brake sharply. Harsh braking and accelerating is likely to increase fuel consumption

15 Missing out some gears can help you save fuel

16 You will use more fuel when you have a roof rack fitted to your car

Fluid Levels

17 Check fluid levels in your car frequently

18 If your brake fluid level is low, you are more likely to crash due to brake failure

Seatbelts and Head Restraints

19 If you have passengers under 14 years old, it is your responsibility as the driver to make sure that their seatbelts are fastened, or that they are in an approved child restraint

20 If a passenger is 14 years old and older, they have responsibility for themselves for making sure that they have their seatbelts on

21 By law your seatbelts must be in good condition and working properly

22 Seatbelts will be checked during an MOT test

23 The most important reason for having a properly adjusted head restraint is to help you avoid neck injury

Environment

24 The purpose of a catalytic converter is to reduce harmful exhaust gases

25 You will find a catalytic converter on the exhaust system

26 Trams are more environmentally friendly because they are powered by electricity

27 Red routes have been introduced in major cities to help the traffic flow and improve congestion

28 Keeping your engine revs low will help to reduce environmental harm caused by your car

Vehicle Checks

29 If your anti-lock brake (ABS) warning light stays on you should have the brakes checked immediately

30 If your vehicle keeps bouncing, after you sharply press down and release on the body work over a wheel, this means that your shock absorbers are worn

- 31 You should use distilled water to top up the fluid level in your battery. Top up to just above the cell plates
- 32 You should dispose of a used vehicle battery at a local authority disposal site (a dump)

Stealing Cars

- 33 If you have to leave valuables in a car you should lock them out of sight
- 34 Etching the registration number onto windows may help to deter a thief from stealing your car
- 35 Before leaving your car unattended you should always remove the vehicle registration document
- 36 If a thief has your vehicle registration document, it will help them to get rid of your car more easily
- 37 To help you prevent your car radio being stolen you can install a security coded radio

Other

- 38 You are not allowed to use your vehicles horn between 11:30 PM and 7:00 AM in a built-up area
- 39 You must use parking lights when you're parked on a road at night and the speed limit is more than 30 mph
- 40 It is important to wear suitable shoes when you're driving so you can have good control of the pedals