

Tick all the boxes this winter with The Motor Ombudsman

Winter is an even more important time of year to make sure that your car is in good working order. To help you stay safe at home and on the road, The Motor Ombudsman has put together this handy ticklist which outlines the key considerations to take into account when getting your vehicle ready for the colder temperatures and the more challenging driving conditions.

IS MY CAR WINTER-PROOF?

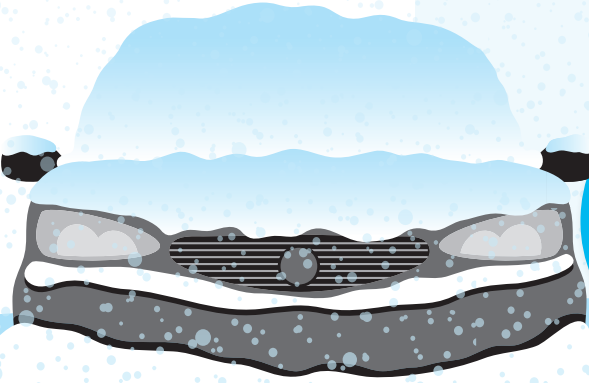
- How much tread is left on my tyres?
- Are all tyres (including the spare) at the correct pressure for the load being carried?
- Do I need winter tyres, and if so how much do they cost?
- How much does it cost to change the winter tyres back to regular tyres?
- Are the brakes in good working condition and legal?
- What is the condition of the battery?
- When was the battery last changed?
- Are the fluids topped up to the recommended levels (i.e. screenwash / anti-freeze, oil and air conditioning)?
- Are all front and rear lights working?
- Do the wiper blades leave the front and rear screen free of streaks?

AM I PREPARED?

- Do I have sunglasses (winter sun can be dazzling)?
- Is there an ice scraper and de-icer in the car?
- Do I have an emergency kit (i.e. a first aid kit, jump leads, boots, warning triangle and a blanket)?
- Do I comply with all the equipment requirements if I am travelling abroad?
- Have I got the right level of breakdown cover for where I am travelling to?
- Is my car insurance, MOT and tax up to date?
- Have I washed and waxed my car to protect it from the build-up of dirt and grime?
- Is there a charger and / or adapter in the car to top-up my phone?
- Is my satellite navigation system working?
- Do I have a shovel at home in case of thick snow?
- Do I have salt to spread on paths and driveways in the event of ice and snow?

WHERE DO I GO FOR A WINTER CHECK AND WHAT DO I LOOK OUT FOR?

- Is the business accredited to The Motor Ombudsman's Service and Repair Code of Practice?
- Have I read any reviews about the business? (e.g. on The Motor Ombudsman's Garage Finder)
- Do I understand the work that needs doing on my car, and has it been clearly explained to me?
- Does the invoice match the work undertaken and the price that I was quoted?
- Was I consulted before any additional work was carried out?
- Did I get a receipt for the work and any condition reports?
- Does the garage have any winter check offers or discounts?
- Do the replacement parts being offered to me meet my budget (e.g. tyres)?
- Can the work be done while I wait, or do I have to leave the car at the garage?



The minimum legal tyre tread depth is 1.6 mm

Winter tyres offer better braking and handling in low temperatures

Breakdowns can be avoided by regular checks and servicing

FIND OUT MORE

Make sure your car is winter-ready and find your local Motor Ombudsman-accredited garage at: [TheMotorOmbudsman.org/garage-finder](https://www.themotorombudsman.org/garage-finder)



#WinterChecks

Take a look at the latest winter driving advice at [TheMotorOmbudsman.org](https://www.themotorombudsman.org)



THE MOTOR OMBUDSMAN