EASY REFERENCE GUIDE

CAR TYRES

CAR TYRES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR KEEPING YOU AND YOUR PASSENGERS SAFE ON THE ROAD. THE DRIVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TYRE CONDITION.

CHECK YOUR TYRES AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH



AIR PRESSURE

Check your tyres are at the manufacturer's recommended pressure. This may be in the door shut, fuel filler cap or owner's manual



CONDITION

Remove any stones or objects from the tyre's tread. If you spot lumps, bumps or cuts, get your tyres checked by a professional.



TREAD

The UK legal minimum tread depth is 1.6mm across the central three quarters of the tread. Check you're safe with the 20p test below.



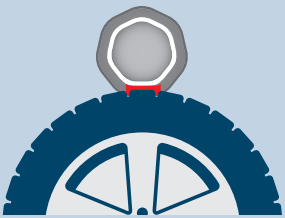
Check at least three locations around each tyre.



If the outer rim of the coin is obscured

Your tread depth is above the legal limit.

Stay safe by checking your tyres at least once a month.



If the outer rim of the coin is VISIBLE

Your tyres may be illegal and unsafe.

Get them checked immediately by a tyre professional.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR CAR TYRES

	 AIR PRESSURE	 CONDITION	 TREAD	 TPMS
WHAT IT IS	Tyre inflation pressure depends on the amount of air that has been pumped into your tyre. It is measured in pounds per square inch (psi), bar or kPa. Your vehicle manufacturer recommends the suitable pressure for your tyres.	A general visual inspection for any bulges, cuts, objects in the tread or age-related deterioration.	The tread is the part of the tyre that contacts the road and is designed to improve grip in the wet but its effectiveness gradually reduces as it wears. The UK's minimum legal tread depth is 1.6 mm within the central three-quarters of the breadth of tread and around the entire outer circumference.	Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) is mandatory on all new cars. It alerts drivers to significant changes in tyre pressure. However, TPMS is not a substitute for regular manual tyre pressure checks, nor does it warn about tyre condition or tread depth.
WHY IT IS IMPORTANT	Correct tyre inflation pressure improves vehicle handling and braking distance. It reduces the risk of tyre damage and possibility of a catastrophic failure while driving. Correctly inflated tyres also last longer and use less fuel.	Objects caught in the tyre tread can cause significant damage if not removed. Bulges may indicate the tyre has internal damage: cuts and cracks may mean the tyre is no longer safe to use. If present, all should be checked by a professional.	Without adequate tread depth your tyres may not perform properly in wet conditions, reducing your safety on the road. Your braking, steering and accelerating are all affected by your tyre tread. If your tread depth is below 1.6mm you can be fined up to £2,500 and three penalty points for each illegal tyre.	TPMS will alert drivers to a significant loss in pressure but you need to know it is working – the system can fail and batteries in wheel-mounted sensors can run out. Vehicles first used on or after 1/1/2012 and equipped with TPMS fitted by the vehicle manufacturer must have a functioning system to pass the MOT
HOW TO CHECK	Use an accurate pressure gauge. Check your pressures when the tyres are cold against the vehicle manufacturer's recommended settings for the load being carried. These can be found in the vehicle handbook or at tyresafe.org. Top up with air if required. Check the pressure in all four tyres and the spare if you have one.	Remove any stones or objects from the tread. If you suspect you see a bulge, run your hand along the side of the tyre to check. Remove any oil or grease with a suitable diluted detergent.	Check the depth of the main tread grooves in several places across and around the tyre using a tread depth gauge. If you don't have a gauge, use a 20p coin as a guide. If the outer rim of the coin is visible when it is inserted into the groove, then your tread depth may be below the legal limit.	When you turn your ignition key, the TPMS symbol should light on your dashboard with all the other warning lights. It should go out after the engine starts. Any alerts should not be ignored.