

Easy Ways to Help Keep Your Car Roadworthy During Lockdown.

RAC
Dealer Network

We are all hoping that in a few months we will be able to get back to our normal lives and back on the road. Whilst the lockdown is still in full effect, we'd like to help you stay on top of your vehicle maintenance and keep your car in the best condition possible, ready for when lockdown is over. Here are a few easy ways that you can look after your car whilst at home.

Battery



Luckily most modern batteries are built sealed to withstand long periods of non-use. If, however you own an older car, check the top of the battery, to see if it is showing a 'green glowing window'. If so your battery charge is low, you can purchase a battery charger, to fix this, and it even tells you when the charge cycle is complete! (Note: Ideally the car needs to be in a garage or car port for this).

Oil



If you can, make sure the oil is clean and filled to the correct level. There is a video guide available on YouTube by the RAC if you are unsure how to check your vehicle's oil. This is not just advisable for these unusual times as oil should always be regularly checked.

Handbrake



If it's safe to do so, leave the handbrake off. If you leave it on for a long period of time, you run the risk of damaging the brake liner or drum. You can put blocks of wood to stop the wheels moving and keep the car stationary. If you have an electric handbrake, check the user manual to see how to deactivate it and follow the previous step.

Storage



If you don't plan to use your car for going to the supermarket or pharmacy, it is advisable to keep your car in storage. The best option is a garage, but if you don't have access to one, you can buy a car cover. These range in price from £10 to £100, so there is something suitable for all vehicle owners.

Fuel



Obviously demand for fuel has decreased whilst the country is asked to stay home. If you need to put petrol in the tank, the good news is that fuel prices are low. The bad news is some petrol stations may be closed, but you can use Fuel Genie to help find your nearest station. Be sure to only fill up if you have to take necessary journeys.

Intake Pipes



To stop any furry friends making your exhaust pipe their temporary holiday home whilst your car is immobile, check the pipe regularly. Additionally, you can cover up air intake vents to stop any bugs getting through, keeping your clean car well preserved.

MOT, Tax and Insurance



Your car still needs a MOT - even in lockdown. The Government is providing a 6 month extension to MOT expiry dates, provided you keep your vehicle safe to drive. There is plenty of information regarding MOT and Tax on their website, so be sure to read it carefully. Cars still need to be insured, even if you are not currently planning to use your car during the lockdown, it is important to keep your insurance valid.

Deep Clean



Being at home is the perfect opportunity to give your car a deep clean, inside and out. Externally, a good wash down and wax will help maintain the paintwork, especially if you leave your car outside or live in certain environments. For example, if you live in a coastal location, where salt can contribute to paint erosion.

Inside the car, clean down with antibacterial spray or wipes. The RAC provide a checklist so you can be sure you've cleaned everything.

Relax - Don't worry if you can't complete all the above steps, just do your best from wherever you are. Hopefully, we will all be able to get back out on the road in a few months' time. Remember... garages are still open, but only for essential repairs that are required to help you make necessary journeys outlined by the government during the lockdown.

A well maintained and healthy car should be fine parked up over the lockdown period. If it does develop any issues or warning lights appear when you first start after a long period of time and you're unsure what to do, you can visit the RAC website for help and advice.