

Before the cold arrives

A walk round you can do on a Saturday, no tools needed for most of it.

Battery and charging

- ☐ Terminals clean, tight and free of white powder
- ☐ Battery held down firmly, no movement
- ☐ Get it tested if it is over three years old
- ☐ Headlights bright at idle, not dim

Tires

- ☐ Tread depth checked across the whole width
- ☐ Pressures set cold, including the spare
- ☐ No cracks, bulges or nails in the sidewalls
- ☐ Winter tires fitted if you run them

Glass and wipers

- ☐ Blades clear the screen without smearing or chattering
- ☐ Washer bottle filled with fluid rated below freezing
- ☐ Chips in the glass dealt with before they spread
- ☐ Rear screen heater working

Under the hood

- ☐ Coolant topped up and rated for your lowest temperature
- ☐ Oil level and condition checked
- ☐ Belts free of cracks and glazing
- ☐ Hoses firm, not soft or swollen

In the trunk

- ☐ Jack, brace and locking wheel nut key all present
- ☐ Jump leads or a jump pack that holds charge
- ☐ Scraper, brush and a pair of gloves
- ☐ Torch, blanket and something to eat

Anything you are unsure of is worth a second opinion. The handbook gives the figures for your vehicle.