



Driving a Van: Daily Walkaround Check

Read our guide about the daily checks that you should carry out inside and outside your van to make sure it's roadworthy.

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1. Inside the van

1.1 Brakes

Check that the:

- Foot or service brake works correctly and doesn't have any excessive travel
- Hand or parking brake works correctly and doesn't have any excessive travel

1.2 Horn and steering

Check that the:

- Horn control is easily accessible from driver's seat
- Horn works when its control is operated
- Steering has no excessive play

1.3 Lights

Check that:

- All lights and indicators work correctly
- All lenses are present, clean and are the right colour
- Stop lamps come on when the service brake is applied and go out when released
- Marker lights are present and work
- All dashboard warning lamps work correctly, including:
 - Automatic braking system (ABS)
 - Airbags - supplemental restraint system (SRS)
 - Electronic positioning system (EPS)
 - Full beam headlamp warning lamp
 - Parking brake warning lamp

1.4 Mirrors and Glass

Check that:

- All mirrors that should be there are properly aligned and secure
- Your view of the road in all directions isn't obscured by damaged or discoloured glass, or obstructions, eg stickers

1.5 Bodywork and Doors

Check that:

- Seats are secure
- Seat belts operate correctly and are free from cuts and damage

1.6 Seats and Seatbelts

- Your seat is secure and positioned properly for comfort
- You can reach and operate all controls properly
- Seatbelts are undamaged and fully operational

2. Outside the van

2.1 Brakes

Check that the:

- Battery is held securely in place by the correct means and not cables
- Battery is not leaking

2.2 Fluids, fuel and oil

Check that:

- The brake fluid, engine coolant, engine oil, power steering fluid, wind screen washer fluid and water levels are correct
- The fuel filler cap is securely fitted
- There are no brake fluid, power steering fluid and water leaks by looking for puddles on the ground - if leaks are detected, trace the cause



Tip:

With the engine on, check underneath the van for any fuel and oil leaks - look for puddles on the ground.

2.3 Bodywork and doors

Check that:

- All doors shut properly and are secure when closed
- There isn't any damage or sharp edges
- No body panels are loose or in danger of falling off

2.4 Exhaust

Check that the exhaust doesn't emit excessive amounts of smoke.

2.5 Tyres and wheels

Check as much of your tyres and wheels as you can see. There must be:

- A minimum tread depth of 1.6mm
- Sufficient inflation of each tyre
- No deep cuts in the sidewall
- No cord visible anywhere on the tyre
- No missing or insecure wheel-nuts

Fact:

You can get 3 penalty points on your licence for each tyre that isn't safe and legal.

2.6 Load

Check that:

- Any load is adequately secured
- The van doors have an effective locking device

2.7 Tow bars and tail lifts

Check that:

- Tow bar is secure and any trailer is correctly and securely attached, with all electrical connections working correctly
- Tail lift is secure and free from damage, functions correctly and the electrics are working correctly

Source: Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/van-drivers-daily-walkaround-check/van-drivers-daily-walkaround-check>

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