



## 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.

# Driving a Van: Daily Walkaround Check

## 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>

# Van Walkaround Checklist

You should check the condition of your van every day and get any problems checked out or repaired as soon as you can

### LIGHTS

Check that:

- all lights and indicators work correctly
- all lenses are present, clean and are the correct 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:
  - ABS
  - airbags (SRS)
  - EPS
  - full beam headlamp warning lamp
  - parking brake warning lamp

### BRAKES

Check that:

- foot / service brake works correctly and does not have any excessive travel
- hand / parking brake works correctly and does not have any excessive travel

### BODYWORK AND DOORS

Check that:

- all doors shut properly and are secure when closed
- there are no sharp edges or damage
- no body panels are loose or in danger of falling off

### LOAD

Check that:

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

### HORN AND STEERING

Check that:

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

### CHECK FROM DRIVER'S SEAT

### CHECK UNDER BONNET

### 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

### WASHERS AND WIPERS

Check that:

- wipers move continually when switched on
- wiper blades are not so deteriorated that they don't clear the windscreen effectively when used with washers
- washers point at the windscreen and are operational
- washer fluid is topped up

### EXHAUST

Check that:

- exhaust doesn't emit excessive amounts of smoke

### 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 such as stickers

### 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

Failing to ensure a tyre is safe and legal can result in receiving 3 penalty points on your licence per tyre.

### FLUIDS, FUEL AND OIL

Check that:

- brake fluid, engine coolant, engine oil, power steering fluid, windscreen washer fluid and water levels are correct
- 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

With the engine on, check:

- underneath the van for any fuel and oil leaks looking for puddles on the ground

### SEATS AND SEATBELTS

Check that:

- seats are secure
- seatbelts operate correctly and are free from cuts and damage

### BATTERY

Check that:

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