

Van checks

New government guidance says that van drivers should run through these walkaround checks every day - and get any issues checked and fixed ASAP.

Drivers need to make sure that:

Seats are secure, seat belts operate correctly and are free from cuts and damage

All mirrors properly aligned and secure, giving clear view of the road in all directions

Horn: Working and easily accessible from driver's seat

Any load is adequately secured, and that the van doors have an effective locking device

Wipers work properly and clear the windscreen, washers are filled, working and pointing at the windscreen.

Doors shut properly, are secure when closed, show no signs of damage or sharp edges, and no body panels are loose or in danger of falling off

Check that the battery shows no sign of deterioration (e.g. leaking), and is held securely in place with appropriate fixings

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

Brake fluid, engine coolant, engine oil, power steering fluid, wind screen washer fluid and water levels are correct, fuel filler cap is securely fitted, and that none of these fluids are leaking by looking for puddles on the ground

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

All lights and indicators, including: brake lights, marker lights, dashboard warnings, and that all lenses are present, clean and are the right colour

Foot and parking brakes are working, with no excessive play

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

Properly maintained vans are crucial for safe roads in the UK: van growth has been rapid over the past decade, and shows no signs of slowing, with vans consistently hitting new record levels year on year. Ensuring your drivers go through these checks every day will protect them, your fleet, and the road users they encounter.