

Update from the Force Crime Prevention Team

Edition 82, November 2025

Road Safety Week 2025

This year, BRAKE are putting safe vehicles at the heart of Road Safety Week. They want to help people understand how safe vehicles can help prevent road crashes and protect people if a crash does happen.

Using a well-maintained and safe vehicle is a fundamental part of being a safe road user. Doing some quick checks, before every journey, can help keep you, and others, safe. Drivers should carry out regular 'walk-round' checks of their vehicle ([using the FLOWER mnemonic](#)), once a week and before any long journeys. If you have any concerns that there's a problem with your vehicle, take it to a garage immediately – putting it off could cost you money, result in a breakdown, or worse, lead to a serious crash.

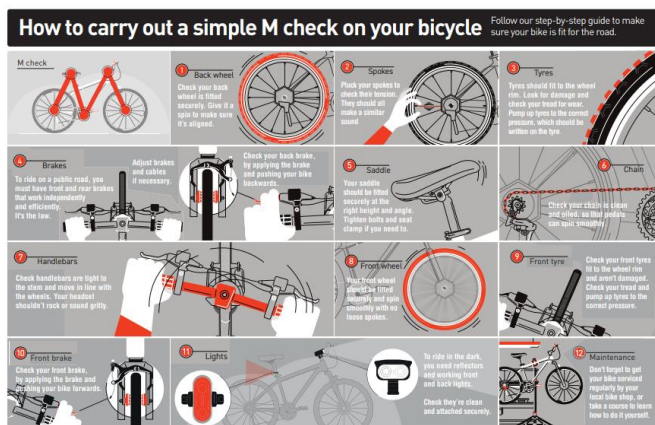


What to check for

Use this simple FLOWER mnemonic to help you remember what to check:



- F** = FUEL – enough for your journey
- L** = LIGHTS – headlights, brake lights, indicators
- O** = OIL – check oil levels when engine is cold
- W** = WATER – lubricants, coolants, washer fluid
- E** = ELECTRICS – ensure battery is present and secure
- R** = RUBBER – tyre pressure, uneven wear, side wall damage, tread



If you ride a bike, keeping it well maintained is important to keep you and others safe. Regular checks only take a few minutes and [following the 'M Check' in this guide](#) means you won't miss anything out.

Remember: you must ensure your brakes are efficient and you must use lights after dark - white at the front and red at the rear.

Stay alert to Winter Fuel Payment scams



Between April and September, Action Fraud have received over 2,700 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payments scams.

These payments are made automatically, you don't need to do anything.

If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam.

Not sure if a message is real? Contact the organisation directly using the contact details on their official website, not the number or web address in the text message.

Report suspicious SMS text messages for free by forwarding them to 7726.

Counter Terrorism Policing's Winter Campaign

With a winter season full of events, such as Christmas shopping, festive markets, pantomimes and concerts, we all have a role to play in keeping each other safe.

That's why Counter Terrorism Policing is once again running its annual winter campaign to encourage the public to stay alert and report anything that doesn't feel right.

Businesses can help by sharing the campaign messages with customers, visitors and staff to encourage them to stay alert for anything that doesn't feel right and report any concerns.



You can download free content to support the campaign at www.protectuk.police.uk/wintertoolkit.

Let's keep each other safe this winter. If you see something that doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and report it at www.gov.uk/ACT. In an emergency call 999.

NBCC Retailers Crime Prevention Toolkit



A free [crime prevention toolkit for retailers](#) has been designed at the request of the Home Office, through a collaboration between the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) and Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (Police CPI). The toolkit aims to provide useful information and guidance to support businesses in keeping safe from crime and helping to prevent crime impacting staff.

Gift Card Fraud

Criminals use gift cards to commit fraud in a variety of different ways:

-  You may receive an email purporting to be from a friend asking you to send a gift card.
-  You might buy a gift card from a legitimate retailer and a criminal has pre-registered the gift card so your gift goes into their pocket.
-  You might be targeted in an employment fraud and asked to pose as a mystery shopper buying gift cards from a supermarket.
-  You might be communicating with someone online, believing them to be genuine, and they ask you to buy gift cards so they can come and visit you.



Remember – always Stop! Think Fraud before sending gift cards, money or valuables to anyone.

If you've received a phishing email please report it to your email provider and/or forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

If you've received unwanted phone calls or texts from people you think are trying to scam you, but you haven't engaged with them, please forward the text/phone number to 7726.