

Motoring Crystal clear

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■ **BEFORE AND AFTER:** Mark Smith, of Azone Repair Systems, works on a damaged windscreen.

THE regulations covering windscreen damage are relatively straightforward.

The MOT defines the area in the driver's immediate line of sight as the 'A' zone.

Any crack or damage in this zone must not exceed 10mm in diameter.

MOT guidelines also require that any chip or damage within the remainder of the area swept by the wipers, known as the 'B' zone, must not exceed 40mm in diameter. Motorists often opt for a total windscreen replacement, when in fact many chips or cracks can be repaired – almost invisibly.

Azone Repair Systems is a local company that specialises in windscreen repair.

Owner Mark Smith explains that where suitable, repair is preferred by insurance companies, many of whom do not charge excess.

"Generally, anything within the size of a pound coin can be repaired very successfully," he says.

"If it's slightly larger, it can still be repaired, but it's still going to be slightly visible." The best results occur when the repair is carried out as soon as possible.

Mark begins by thoroughly cleaning the area around the damage.

He then carefully drills a minute hole into the 'core' of the damage.

Any air trapped in the flawed area is drawn out by vacuum, which in turn, draws in a small quantity of resin.

Capillary action does the rest, drawing the resin

Windscreen chips are an annoying distraction. But many, if caught in time, can be repaired.

Richard Hill finds out how.

deep into the cracks and voids.

The resin is then 'cured' by being exposed to ultra violet light.

Once the resin has set, all that remains is for the surface of the windscreen to be polished. The repair also restores the strength and integrity of the windscreen.

The resin has refractive characteristics close to that of the original windscreen resulting in a transparent repair with almost no distortion.

The sooner the repair is carried out, before too much air, water or dust contaminate the crack, the more invisible the repair will be. Most companies carry out repairs at any location, including at home or work, ensuring the possibility of early repair.

To reduce the risk of damage, Azone Repair Systems recommend the following:-

■ Keep your distance from the vehicle in front, particularly at higher speeds.

■ Look out for damage and debris on roads, espe-



cially in rural areas.

■ Check your windscreen regularly for signs of damage and have it repaired as quickly as possible.

■ Hot water and cold windscreens don't mix. Existing cracks could spread.

■ A windscreen can be repaired at around a third of the cost and in a third of the time of a replacement.

See also the Azone Repair Systems advertisement on page 80.