

Motoring Check this!

sponsored
by



OF
WINDSOR

01753 800600



■ MARTIN Embury checks wheels and tyres during an MOT test at Reliance Auto Test. 988X/c

ANY people find it a mystery. Mechanics looking over, under, in and around the car, wagging, poking, rattling and prodding things on it. But what are they doing? What are they looking for?

The MOT scheme is about vehicle road safety. It's about the reassurance of knowing that as far as possible your car, and those around you, have been properly maintained and, that at the time of the test, complied with certain requirements of the law.

Martin Embury is a certified MOT examiner who operates Reliance Auto Test.

"Every MOT test is carried out in exactly the same way," he explains.

"It's a set procedure. The way you test the headlights, the way you check the braking system and the way you check the physical condition of the vehicle."

Each examiner follows a strict routine of everything that must be inspected and tested. The seats and seatbelts, lights, steering, suspension, brakes, wheels and tyres, registration plates, fuel system, mirrors, structure and bodywork, exhaust system and

Every car, motorcycle and light goods vehicle over three years old requires an annual MOT test. This week Richard Hill visits Reliance Auto Test in Slough to check-out the check-ups

emissions, horn, wipers, washers and windscreen.

Some of the inspections are purely visual – others require a degree of sophistication where specialised equipment must be used.

Although some aspects of the test may appear complicated, the results are elementary and can often be easily explained by the examiner.

"You can always ask our testers for an explanation of what's been put on the failure sheet," says Martin.

"We try to give a little bit of advice too, about the condition of the tyres, for example."

The MOT test needn't therefore be a procedure to mystify or cause alarm.

"The examination is in the driver's interest – a reassurance about the condition of the vehicle.

Five tips from the top. Martin suggests some simple ways of doing a pre-MOT check:

1 Check the condition of the tyres – the general condition, tread depth and inflation pressures.

2 Check the operation of the lights. Even one faulty bulb will cause a fail.

3 Check fluid levels, especially brake fluid levels.

4 Ensure that the interior of the car is accessible. A test may be declined before its begun if the car and its boot are full of shopping and luggage.

The tester needs to have access to most areas of the car's superstructure.

5 Thirteen-month tests! Your MOT test can be taken at any time in the calendar month prior to its due date and will run concurrently. This way you can avoid the busy periods at test stations.

