

Motoring Blast it...

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■ Dennis Green fits a new exhaust system at Slough Exhaust Centre.

AT the simplest level, an exhaust system has the job of delivering the burnt emissions from the engine into the atmosphere.

It also reduces the amount of noise emitted and when combined with a catalytic converter reduces the amount of harmful gases that are discharged into the atmosphere.

An efficient exhaust is important. It affects the engine efficiency, the quality of the environment – the air we breathe – and the level of noise we are subjected to.

It also needs to comply with certain laws and legislation.

Slough Exhaust Centre has been established in Farnham Road, Slough, for over 30 years and was the first specialist exhaust centre in the area.

Consequently, proprietor Dennis Green has extensive knowledge of exhaust engineering and what causes them problems.

“The worst thing for an exhaust is very short trips and low mileage,” he says,

“They corrode much faster. The reason for this is due to the way that exhaust systems react to condensation as the hot metal cools down when the engine stops.

Dennis and his team are always happy to advise motorists.

“Hopefully, we’ve got a good reputation because we look after our customers,” he says.

“We had a customer the other day who was worried because his car seemed to get through a lot of

There are a number of very good reasons why it's important to keep an exhaust system in good working order. Richard Hill meets Dennis Green, who runs Slough Exhaust Centre, to find out more.

exhausts. The MOT testing station had told him to give it an occasional ‘good blast’.”

Dennis was in agreement because running a car at high revs and relatively high speed, as in motorway driving, can help purge the corrosive deposits from the exhaust system.

Dennis also values the commitment of his employees.

“My staff have been with me for 25 years,” he says. “They really know what they’re doing.”

Slough Exhaust Centre certainly has an excellent reputation.

Did you know?

■ Leaks at the engine end of the exhaust system can usually be detected by raising the bonnet and lis-



tening as the engine is revved. The noise is unmistakable and there may be exhaust gases escaping from the leak.

■ If not rectified, leaks can develop into holes. As well as presenting an environmental noise and pollution problem, this can pose a serious safety risk since poisonous gases may escape into the passen-

ger compartment.

■ Most exhausts rot from the inside out due to the corrosive deposits condensing from the exhaust gases.

However, a certain amount of corrosion can occur to the outside of the exhaust, particularly due to the corrosive effect of road salt.