

MOT HIGH WYCOMBE

Pre-MOT Checklist 2026

Complete this 20-minute check the weekend before your MOT. Ticking everything below reduces your chances of an avoidable failure — and saves you the retest fee.

~30% of failures prevented by a pre-check	£39 MOT from at Auto Clinics High Wycombe	Free retest if we do the repairs	28 days book early without losing certificate time
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TYRES

- [] Tread depth $\geq$ 1.6mm on all four tyres**

Use the 20p coin test: insert into the main tread groove. If the outer band is visible, tread may be below the 1.6mm legal minimum. Check the full circumference, not just one spot.
- [] No sidewall damage, cuts or bulges**

Run your hand around each tyre at night with a torch. Bubbling or cuts in the sidewall are a fail — and a safety risk.
- [] Tyre pressures correct (check door sill sticker)**

Incorrect pressure triggers the TPMS warning light — which is an automatic MOT failure on vehicles fitted with TPMS.

LIGHTS

- [] Both headlights working — main beam and dipped**

Check from 10 metres away. If one side looks dimmer, the bulb may be failing before it blows.
- [] All four indicators flashing at correct speed**

Front, rear and side repeaters. A fast-flashing indicator usually means a failed bulb on that circuit.
- [] Both brake lights illuminating on pedal press**

Ask someone to stand behind the car while you press the pedal — or reverse close to a reflective surface.
- [] Reversing light comes on in reverse gear**

Often missed. Should glow white when reverse is selected.
- [] Number plate lights on (key in position 2)**

One of the most common lighting failures — both number plate bulbs must illuminate.
- [] Fog lights and hazard lights functioning**

Check front and rear fog lights if fitted. Hazard warning lights are not part of the MOT but worth checking.

WINDSCREEN & WIPERS

- [] No chips or cracks in the driver's A-zone**
The A-zone is a 290mm band centred on the steering wheel. Any chip over 10mm here causes a fail. Chips in zone B (outside A-zone) must be under 40mm.
- [] Wiper blades clearing fully — no smearing or skipping**
Turn wipers on in drizzle or use a wet cloth. Streaking or chattering blades fail the test. New blades cost from £10 a pair.
- [] Washer fluid full and jets pointing at screen**
The tester operates the washers. Running dry or jets pointing at the roof will fail.

HORN, HANDBRAKE & DASHBOARD

- [] Horn sounds immediately on press**
A working horn is a legal requirement. Test it before you drive to the garage.
- [] Handbrake holds on a gradient**
Park on an incline, apply the handbrake and release the footbrake. The car should not roll.
- [] No warning lights on dashboard at idle**
Engine management (EML), ABS, airbag (SRS) and TPMS lights are all automatic MOT failures if illuminated during the test.
- [] Seatbelts buckle, retract and hold firmly**
Test all seatbelts — front and rear. Frayed webbing, a sticky buckle or a belt that won't retract will fail.

PROFESSIONAL CHECK RECOMMENDED

- [] Brake pad and disc thickness — have a mechanic inspect**
Brake wear is not visible without removing wheels. Our free pre-MOT check covers brake pad depth on all four corners.
- [] Suspension — listen for clunks on bumps and corners**
A clunk over bumps or a car that pulls to one side under braking suggests a suspension or brake issue. Let a technician inspect before your test.
- [] Exhaust — listen for blowing or rattling**
A blowing exhaust joint is an automatic failure. Listen for a ticking or hissing sound from under the car, especially on cold start.

Free Pre-MOT Inspection at Auto Clinics High Wycombe

01494 450058

Tyres, brakes, lights and suspension checked before your test. No charge. No obligation. Book the week before your MOT.

autoclinics.co.uk | Info@autoclinics.co.uk Mon–Sat
9am–6pm | High Wycombe, Bucks