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Fixter advises – Check your car to keep it safe and ready for action

Published: May 6, 2020

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Online version: <https://www.wheels-alive.co.uk/fixter-advises-check-your-car-to-keep-it-safe-and-ready-for-action/>



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FIXTER, ONLINE CAR MAINTENANCE SERVICE PROVIDER, OFFERS TIPS ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAR ROADWORTHY AFTER SITTING IDLE DURING LOCKDOWN

- Fixter, the UK's first end-to-end online car maintenance service provider, offers all car users expert tips on which vehicle parts require extra attention at the end of lockdown
- Fixter garage partners offer advice on precautions that can minimise the risk of potential problems during and after lockdown
- Fixter recommends how to protect vehicle batteries and what to avoid
- Fixter details why filling up your tank is an easy way to prevent unwanted internal damage
- Fixter also offers advice on the impact of parking a car for a long period and why it's worth paying extra attention to the brakes
- Fixter experts also provide tips on achieving an extra layer of protection under the bonnet and how a simple visual health check can avoid expensive future repairs
- Find the free information at: <https://www.fixter.co.uk/blog/keeping-your-car-safe--during-the-pandemic/>

London, Wednesday 6 May 2020: [Fixter](https://www.fixter.co.uk), the UK's first end-to-end online car maintenance service provider, is offering expert advice on its website - www.fixter.co.uk - to help car owners prepare for using their car again after lockdown.

Key points of the recommendations include battery protection. When a vehicle sits idle for a long time, the main issue is a slow battery discharge. Fixter recommends checking the state of the battery weekly. If a car sounds like it's struggling to turn over the engine, it's time to plug it in for a top-up. Fixter partner, 'CW Vehicles', based in Birmingham, advises to ideally turn engines on once a week and run them for a few minutes, as it should prevent components being blocked by carbon. This is a common problem with cars that are usually driven often and suddenly parked for a long time.

A common issue with unused cars during the lockdown can be moisture gathering in an empty petrol tank, causing rust to build inside. This can be prevented simply by filling up the tank, even adding stabiliser fluid, to ensure the fuel stays fresh while the car remains parked, advises Fixter's partner garage, 'TL Motors', in London. Car owners encountering



this issue at the end of lockdown are advised to head to their local garage, say the Fixter experts.

Fixter recommends parking vehicles off-street if facilitated, as well as placing chocks under the wheels, putting in the first gear and releasing the handbrake. If this is not an option and the car has been idle for a while, Fixter experts at 'Trinity Diesels' in Manchester and 'Wimbledon Service Centre' in London, suggest to test brakes for stiffness during an initial test drive, as the brake pads can become sticky. At the same time, drivers should identify any items that might be due for replacement and require urgent attention, as per the last service. Both garages recommend having brakes and fluids professionally checked, as build-up moisture can easily contaminate the brake fluids of irregularly used cars.

Fixter partners at 'VSC Car Servicing & MOT', in Twickenham, warn car owners about parking under trees, as leaves can get into the air vents, causing problems with the air conditioner. When an air conditioning unit isn't used or switched on occasionally, the rubber rings can dry out, which causes the system to leak. Furthermore, rotten leaves may be the reason for bad smells inside a car, while the viscous liquid from the leaves can corrode the paint on the outside.

In addition, Fixter experts urge car owners to lubricate handles, locks and other moving parts, to provide an extra layer of protection under the bonnet, while also checking on the oil and filter. The used oil in car engines becomes contaminated with water, dust, metal filings, sludge and more. It's advised to change the oil at the same time as the filters, and go for a short drive afterwards to circulate the new oil around the engine. That way, it can provide the very protection it's designed for.

'Paisley Autocare', one of Fixter's partners in Glasgow, suggests that a simple visual health check at a local garage will avoid expensive repairs and problems in the long run.

Limvirak Chea, Co-founder and CEO of Fixter, said: "While some people, such as key workers, are using their cars more than before, most are isolating at home and simply don't



need their vehicles. We're sharing our knowledge in partnership with some of our trusted garage partners, to make sure everyone has a safe vehicle to start using again when the time is right."

Richard Creed, Garage Account Manager at Fixter, said: "Not everyone is fully clued up when it comes to car maintenance. At Fixter, we want to make sure car owners understand the importance of keeping their car roadworthy at all times. With the help of our garage partners, we want to make it as easy as possible for drivers to spot problems or avoid them entirely, now and for when lockdown ends."

Find more information at: <https://www.fixter.co.uk/blog/keeping-your-car-safe--during-the-pandemic/>

About Fixter

They say, "Fixter is revolutionising the car maintenance industry, one repair at a time. Fixter was founded to make car maintenance as easy as booking a taxi. Digital, transparent and stress-free, with world-class customer service. Since launching in Manchester in 2017, Fixter has expanded to more than 100 cities across the UK and provided thousands of car owners with honest, convenient and affordable car repair services".

Customers can get an instant quote by visiting <https://www.fixter.co.uk/how-it-works> or calling 0330 808 9527.

Kim adds: "Don't forget to check your tyres for condition and correct pressures, also ensure that your vehicle's lights, screen washers and wipers are in good condition and fully operational".