

Why do I need to do an MOT test?

MOT (Ministry of Transport) testing is the law and ensures that every vehicle using public roads is mechanically safe and operates within certain emissions limits.

So I don't need to get my car serviced?

Yes, you still do. MOT testing isn't a guarantee of the general mechanical condition of a vehicle for the life of the certificate—you should still have your car serviced regularly.

When should MOT testing be done?

A test is required once a vehicle is three years old, and then annually.

How much does it cost for MOT testing?

The government agency VOSA (Vehicle & Operator Services Agency) sets a maximum charge for MOT testing. Garages can charge less if they choose.

What does MOT testing cover?

MOT testing consists of more than 150 checks for safety and emissions, from lights and steering to brakes and exhaust emissions.

What if my car fails?

You'll have to put the problem right and have it re-tested.

Will I have to pay for the test again?

If you leave the vehicle at the MOT testing centre for the repairs to be carried out then only a partial re-examination will be required, as long as the retest is done before the end of the 10th working day after the day of the initial test. The re-test is then free.

If you take your vehicle away to get it fixed and it has failed on one or more of a specified list of items (check with the MOT testing centre), you can take it back to the same MOT testing centre by the end of the next working day for a partial re-examination which, once again, is free.

If you take your vehicle away to be fixed and it has failed on something other than the listed items, you can bring it back to the same MOT testing centre for a partial retest within 10 working days. In this case the MOT testing centre can charge up to half the full test fee again.

Can I still drive without an MOT Certificate?

Only if you're going to an MOT testing centre for a test booked in advance or bringing it away from an MOT testing centre, after it has failed the test, to go to a garage for an arranged repair.

Can I change the MOT date?

You can have the MOT testing done up to one calendar month before it expires and have the new MOT forward-dated to the expiry date of your existing certificate. Any earlier and you will lose time on the existing certificate.

Does the rear wiper blade have to work to pass an MOT?

No.

Does a child seat form part of the MOT test?

If the child seat is fitted for seat belts then yes it does.

Will a chip in my windscreen mean my car will fail its MOT?

This depends on location and size – If it is within the drivers view any chip cannot exceed 10mm in diameter. If it is not within the driver's view it must not exceed 40mm diameter.