

What are Pre-Departure Vehicle Checks?

Worksheet

Pre-departure checks are routine inspections of brakes, tires, lights, fluids, and wipers before driving. They prevent breakdowns and ensure legal roadworthiness.

Questions

1. Which is NOT a standard pre-departure check?
 - A) tire tread depth
 - B) engine paint color
 - C) brake pedal firmness
 - D) windshield wiper condition
2. Tire pressure is 1.8 bar; recommended is 2.2 bar. Proceed?
 - A) yes, minor difference
 - B) no, inflate first
 - C) yes, it's close enough
 - D) adjust during the trip
3. Brake pedal feels soft and sinks slowly. Proceed?
 - A) yes, brakes still work
 - B) no, brake issue — visit mechanic
 - C) only short distances
 - D) drive slowly
4. Wipers streak the windshield badly. Legal to drive?
 - A) yes, can still see somewhat
 - B) no, visibility failure
 - C) yes, only in daylight
 - D) yes, if slow
5. Before a 500 km highway trip, check tire pressure. It reads 1.8 bar (below recommended 2.2 bar). Action?
6. Windshield wipers are cracked and streak the glass. Should you continue?
7. Brake pedal feels soft and sinks partway. What to do?
8. Define: What are pre-departure checks?
9. Define: Why are pre-departure checks important?
10. Define: What should you check on tires?

Answer Key

1. B) engine paint color — Engine paint has no safety relevance. Check tread depth, brakes, and wipers.
2. B) no, inflate first — Underinflated tires increase fuel use and overheat. Inflate to spec before departure.
3. B) no, brake issue — visit mechanic — Soft brake feel suggests air in lines or low fluid. Do not drive; see a mechanic.
4. B) no, visibility failure — Streaked wipers impair visibility. Replace before driving, especially in rain.
5. 1. Record baseline pressure: 1.8 bar (low) 2. Inflate to 2.2 bar at nearest service station 3. Verify pressure again: 2.2 bar 4. Proceed to journey
6. 1. Windshield cleaning is critical for visibility 2. Cracked wipers reduce visibility in rain 3. Action: Replace wipers before departure 4. Test wipers on windshield to confirm function
7. 1. Symptom: air in brake lines or brake fluid low 2. Brake responsiveness is critical for safety 3. Action: Do NOT drive. Visit mechanic for brake inspection 4. Likely issue: brake fluid top-up or bleeding needed
8. Safety inspections (tires, brakes, lights, fluids) done before any trip to ensure the vehicle is roadworthy.
9. They identify mechanical issues early, prevent breakdowns, and reduce accident risk during travel.
10. Pressure (per manufacturer specs), tread depth (≥ 1.6 mm), and visible wear or damage.

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