

Servicing your car:

If you have never taken your car in for a service before, it could be a potentially daunting task. Mechanics can often use a lot of jargon, which you may or may not understand and which could end up leaving you confused if you had no idea what was going to happen in the first place. Even if you have taken your car in for a service before, it never hurts to refresh your memory about what will happen so that you are prepared for what is in store.

What will they do to my car in a service?

The service is just a thorough check of all of the working parts of your car. Mechanics will check the inside and outside of your car, as well as all of the inner workings to make sure that everything is running smoothly. They will check for parts, which may be wearing out so that you have plenty of warning if they need to be renewed. They will also perform an oil change and replace the oil filter in your engine. If you are still in doubt about exactly what your car will go through in a service then it is worth having a quick chat with your mechanic when you drop your vehicle off, so that they can put your mind at ease. A check list can also be provided on request or check your service manual.

How long does a service usually take?

Before taking your car in for a service, it is important to know how long you will be without it so that you can make alternative arrangements if necessary. The length of the service will depend on several factors. Firstly, are you taking your car in for an interim service? (Usually performed every 6 months or 6,000 miles), or a full service (usually carried out every 12 months or 12,000 miles)?

An interim service usually takes about an hour and a half and a full service within 3 hours. Secondly, the length of the service will depend on whether or not there are any problems found. If everything runs smoothly then you should have your car back within 3 hours; if there are issues, which need to be resolved, then it could take longer. Your mechanic should inform you if your car will have to remain in the workshop longer than expected. Also waiting for parts can slow things down.

How does a service differ from an MOT?

MOTs are full inspections of your car, but during the process, the workshop cannot take anything apart or strip any components down. It is simply a test to make sure that the vehicle is safe to be on the road. A service, on the other hand, is a much more thorough look at the workings of your car. The garage have to take things apart to be able to access all of the parts of the engine and will therefore be able to give you a much better idea of what is in good condition and what is not. Any failure items found would be reported to the customer. Repairs are only carried out with customer consent.