



HARTLEY WINTNEY GARAGE – SERVICE Q&A

Here at HWG there are a lot of questions we get asked quite often. So we've put this little Q&A together to cover the common ones. Feel free to ask our friendly team anything you are not sure about. We're happy to help.

Why do I need to change my engine oil?

Engine oil has many functions, not just lubrication. It helps cool down the engine, removes sludge and wear particles, carrying them to the filter. It improves MPG and promotes vehicle longevity.

Having your oil changed at the correct mileage and time reduces the likelihood of excessive wear or parts failure.

Why do I need to change the brake fluid?

Most manufacturers recommend that the brake fluid is changed every 2 years or 20,000 miles. Brake fluid absorbs moisture which works its way through the hydraulic system. Once brake fluid has become contaminated with moisture, the braking system efficiency is reduced.

Moisture in the system can cause corrosion to ABS components which are expensive to replace.

Regular changing of the brake fluid can prolong the life of the parts in the system and will maintain braking efficiency.

Why do I need to change the timing belt?

Timing belts are made of rubber which deteriorates with age and mileage as so could become less reliable. Should a timing belt slip or snap then the engine's timing would be misaligned, allowing the pistons to impact the cylinder head valves.

This could cause substantial internal engine damage and be very costly to repair.

Replacement of the timing belt is preventative maintenance that could save you both money and inconvenience.

Why do I need the wheel alignment checked?

Most manufacturers recommend a yearly alignment check. Everyday use including driving over speed bumps or pot-holes could alter your vehicle's alignment. Incorrect wheel alignment causes excessive and uneven tyre wear and can also affect the handling characteristics of the car.

Worn tyres and incorrect wheel alignment can greatly increase stopping distances under heavy braking.

Getting your wheel alignment checked regularly will save you money and could save lives.

Why do I need to re-gas the air conditioning system?

The air conditioning system of your car has an optimum level for both gas and lubricant. Over time and usage both the gas and oil level reduce. Running the air conditioning system with insufficient gas or oil will reduce the efficiency of the system (it will not be as cold) but could also damage the compressor leading to failure of the system.

During an air conditioning re-gas all remaining gas is evacuated from the system and it is then refilled with the correct amount of gas and oil for your system.

Re-gassing your air conditioning gives you peace of mind, makes your system more efficient and prolongs the life of components.

Why do I need to change the coolant?

Most manufacturers recommend that the coolant is replaced every 2 years or 20,000 miles. Excessive water in the cooling system can cause internal engine corrosion that could block the water galleries and lead to overheating and possible expensive repairs.

During the coolant change the system is flushed to remove all of the old coolant, debris and water before being replaced with new coolant at the correct mixture for the vehicle.

Regular changing of the coolant could save money and inconvenience.