



## THE P.O.W.D.E.R. CHECK PETROL OIL WATER DAMAGE ELECTRICS RUBBER

Before going on any journey you should apply the POWDER check to your vehicle. The letters of the word POWDER stand for:

### **PETROL:**

Make certain you have enough fuel for your intended journey.

### **OIL:**

Check the level of engine oil on level ground at least twenty minutes after the engine has been running, to allow the oil time to drain back in to the sump. Remove the dipstick and wipe clean. Re-insert the dipstick and remove, to identify the oil level. This should be between the maximum and minimum marks. The oil level checks of the brake fluid, the clutch fluid and the power steering fluid are visual checks against high and low markings on each reservoir. If you are unsure how to check any of these items, refer to your vehicle hand book.

### **WATER:**

Water is found in several places within your vehicle. **Distilled water** is used in your car battery. (Sealed batteries are non-serviceable) **Tap water** is used to top up the coolant level in the radiator and also in the windscreen washer bottle. Both bottles must have their contents protected from freezing, by including the relevant additives. **Anti-freeze** is added to the coolant in the radiator and contains **anti corrosion** inhibitors. For this reason Anti-freeze is an all year round protection.

Your washer bottle contents will also freeze if a **windscreen washer additive** has not been added. The washer bottle additive helps to remove grease from the windscreen, so it is advisable to replace additive every time you refill the bottle. Some cars have one bottle that is used to wash both front and rear screens. Some cars have a separate washer bottle in the boot for the rear washer. All additives are available from auto accessory shops, including distilled water.

### **DAMAGE:**

Check all around the vehicle for dents or scratches. If you can detect scratches early which show bare metal, covering it with touch up paint will stop it going rusty.

### **ELECTRICS:**

Check that all light bulbs are in working order. Replace as necessary. Get a friend to help you check the brake lights, or check for reflections in a garage door or the car behind you. Check that your wipers and washers are working. If your indicators flash at twice the normal speed, one of the indicator bulbs has blown.

### **RUBBER:**

Front and rear wiper blades should clear the windscreen effectively and should be unbroken. When the tyres are **cold**, check the pressure (at least once a week) according to your vehicles handbook. It is well worth investing in a pencil type pressure gauge. This allows you to check pressures at home, saving you the trip to the garage. The tyre side-wall should also be free from cuts, cracks or bulges. Tyre tread depth, should be at least 1.6 mm across the centre three quarters of the tread width. If you do not have a tread depth gauge you can look at the tread wear indicators on the tyre. Do not forget to check the spare wheel!

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