Defeat the early chill with a Good Garage Scheme Winter Check

With the threat of an early winter looming, it is crucial for drivers across the UK to prepare for severe and sudden changes in road conditions. Forecasters are already predicting early snow, which could have consequences for motorists if their vehicles are not in top working order.

England's weather can constantly change and experience has shown our Autumn/Winter period to cause endless havoc, so drivers should be prepared come rain, ice or snow.

What are the risks of not having your vehicle checked?

Dangerous accidents:

Tyres and brakes are two fundamental features to maintain on your vehicle. Incorrect tyre pressures and low tread could result in slippery and uneconomical driving. Another key factor is ensuring your visibility is clear. The short gloomy days are a hindrance and means more and more people are driving in the dark during the early morning or after 5pm. This is why it is important to top up your windscreen washers, and replace wipers/lightbulbs when required

Costly repairs:

Low temperatures can seriously damage your engine; therefore antifreeze levels need to be monitored to avoid costly repairs. Also, many people damage their wipers by trying to clear icy windscreens. This can be prevented with a healthy engine to heat the car.

Inconvenient breakdowns:

Breaking down in bitter temperatures can also pose threat to your personal health if you have to wait for assistance. Make sure you have a fully charged mobile phone before you head out in the car and at least a half tank of fuel.

Preparation is key...

The Good Garage Scheme's comprehensive 20-point Winter Check is the perfect solution to help you avoid hitting the skids this winter. The essential winter motoring package includes checking:

- The condition and levels of antifreeze
- · Engine oil and brake fluid
- Brakes and tyres
- Windscreens
- · Wipers and lights

It is also recommended that cooling systems are drained and cleansed thoroughly using a Cooling System Flush, which is designed to remove rust and limescale build up. With these contaminants removed, the coolant will perform more efficiently and will flow freely throughout the system.

After flushing, the system can be refilled with fresh coolant plus a Cooling System Conditioner. This important treatment ensures efficient operation of the system by preventing further corrosion and erosion, overheating and scale formation.

Take action now...

Simply log on to www.goodgaragescheme.com and type in your postcode to find your nearest Good Garage Scheme member garage offering the Winter Check or download the Good Garage Schemes free app, which will help you locate Good Garage Scheme Garages in the area if you got stuck on the road.

Anndi Sheppard, Forte Lubricants a division of ITW Ltd, on tel: 024 76 472649