

UAE Car Passing Guide

Who Needs to Pass the Car Inspection?

- All vehicles older than 3 years: Must undergo annual RTA inspection for registration renewal
- New vehicles (less than 3 years old): Generally exempt until first renewal
- Imported vehicles: Require passing certificate for registration
- Commercial vehicles: May have different inspection schedules

When to Get Your Car Inspected?

- Registration renewal: Before renewing your vehicle registration
- Ownership transfer: When selling or transferring your car
- RTA notice: If you receive an official inspection notice
- After major repairs/accidents: Especially those affecting safety components
- Custom modifications: After significant vehicle alterations

How to Prepare Your Car for Passing?

- Brakes: Ensure proper function with no leaks or excessive wear
- Lights: Test all headlights, brake lights, indicators, and hazard lights
- Tires: Minimum 1.6mm tread depth, no cuts or bulges
- Emissions: Must meet UAE standards (especially for older vehicles)
- Suspension/steering: No excessive play or leaks
- Vehicle body: No major rust, dents affecting structure
- Chassis number: Clearly visible and matches documents
- Windshield: No cracks obstructing driver's view

What Happens During Inspection?

- Visual inspection: Body condition, lights, mirrors, windshield
- Safety checks: Brakes, suspension, steering functionality
- Emissions test: Tailpipe emissions measurement
- Underbody inspection: Chassis, exhaust system, fuel lines

- VIN verification: Matching chassis number to documents
- OBD scan: For newer vehicles (check engine light etc.)

If Your Car Passes

- Receive passing certificate: Valid for 30 days typically
- Registration renewal: Proceed with renewal process
- Ownership transfer: Can complete sale/transfer process
- W2D listing advantage: Upload certificate when selling to build buyer trust
- Digital records: Some emirates link directly to registration system

If Your Car Fails

- Receive defect report: Detailed list of non-compliant items
- Repair requirements: Must fix at approved garages
- Re-inspection: Return to same center within specified period
- Additional costs: May incur new inspection fees
- Time limits: Typically 30 days to rectify (varies by emirate)
- Multiple failures: May require comprehensive re-check

Tips for a Successful Passing

- Regular maintenance: Follow manufacturer's service schedule
- Pre-inspection check: Visit mechanic 2 weeks before test
- Common failure points: Worn tires, non-functional lights, excessive smoke, warning lights
- Documentation: Bring all required vehicle papers
- Clean vehicle: Especially chassis number area
- Timing: Avoid last-minute inspections before registration expiry

Disclaimer: This guide provides general information about traffic regulations in the UAE. Rules may be updated periodically by relevant authorities. Wheels2Deals is not responsible for any changes to traffic laws or fines incurred. Always check with official RTA or police sources for current regulations.