

Site rac co uk how long do batteries last

The reason is simple. The electric motor, batteries and EV transmission have fewer moving parts than the engine and gearbox of an internal combustion car. This means there is less to go wrong. However, as this guide will explain, an EV still needs regular servicing.

The minimum legal limit for tyre tread depth in the UK is 1.6 millimetres, measured across the central three quarters of the tread around the tyre's complete circumference. It's sensible to replace tyres when the tread depth reaches 3.0 millimetres. Below this depth, stopping distances can increase dramatically.

Volkswagen electric cars – such as the ID.3 and ID.4 – have a fixed service schedule like combustion-engined vehicles, with the first inspection due after two years. Following that, it is recommended that a service is carried out annually or every 18,000 miles, whichever comes up first.

Hyundai has similar electric vehicle service plan intervals for its petrol and hybrid cars, at 10,000-mile intervals in the first year, 20,000 miles in the second year and so on, whichever milestone is reached sooner.

Servicing an electric car is made simpler by the fact that almost all car manufacturers offer a service plan for electric vehicles. Like a mobile phone contract, these can be paid monthly or with an upfront cost, and entitle you to a fixed range of benefits.

For Audi's range of E-tron models, service plans start with an upfront cost of £299.25. This includes one service, one brake fluid change and one pollen filter change. A service plan for a 2.0-litre combustion model starts at £449.25.

For the first year of ownership, Vauxhall offers a core electric car service priced from £90, rising to £239 with the addition of a cabin filter check. However, you shouldn't need to pay anything if you buy a brand-new Vauxhall EV, as they currently come with three years of free servicing.

An electric vehicle can be serviced by either a manufacturer-approved dealership or an independent garage while within its warranty period. However, if you lease an electric car, you may find you are contractually required to have it serviced within the franchised dealer network (check the financial agreement to confirm this).

If you do decide to maintain the vehicle outside of the franchised dealer network, you must ensure the car is serviced within accordance of the manufacturer's service schedule and instructions. For example, the garage must use approved parts and fluids (which must be documented on an itemised invoice). If the independent garage fails to do this, you may find you've unwittingly invalidated the car's warranty.

That said, you may find it cheaper to take it to an independent garage for maintenance; however, as EV technology is still quite new, it can be more of a challenge to find a specialist capable of carrying out maintenance, but the good news is that it's far from impossible.

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