Heatwave Spurs Demand For Aircon Recharge

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- British drivers looking for a cool 18.7°C -

The sweltering summer weather has seen a massive rise in drivers realising their air conditioning is not up to the job. Kwik Fit, the UK's leading automotive servicing and repair company, carried out three times the number of aircon recharges last week when compared with both the previous week and the equivalent period last year.

Research carried out for Kwik Fit has revealed that the average British drivers likes to set their car's aircon at 18.7°C. As some parts of the country were sizzling at 36.7°C last week, drivers in those areas would have required their aircon to reduce the temperature by a whopping 18°C compared to the heat outside.

Such a significant drop requires air conditioning to be performing to maximum efficiency and it is clear from the huge number of drivers having their air con serviced that many cars' systems were struggling to cope. This may be because the systems have not been maintained as often as they should. Many drivers assume that aircon is included in their car's annual service, but this is not usually the case.

Kwik Fit has provided some advice to help drivers keep their aircon in peak condition, encouraging motorists not to neglect it, even when colder weather returns.

- ***Use it regularly*** – turn on the air con for at least ten minutes every week of the year. This will help keep the system lubricated and stop seals from drying out
- ***Give it a hand*** – if possible, on very hot days leave the windows open a little when parked - reducing the heat build up in the car in the first place will lower the burden on the air con system
- **Don't neglect it in winter** – using the air con will clear fogged windscreens more quickly – using the system all year round will help maintain its effectiveness
- ***Recharge the system regularly*** – unlike in a building's air conditioning system, around 10-15% of the gas inside a car's aircon system leaks out every year due to its inherent movement. So even if a system doesn't have a leak, drivers should have it serviced and recharged, most manufacturers recommend doing this every two years

Roger Griggs, communications director at Kwik Fit, said: "Air con systems can make driving a lot more comfortable – particularly with the weather we've been having. It's important not to neglect air con maintenance - these don't get automatically covered by a car's annual service, so it can be easy to forget. Regular use and servicing will help avoid the risk of expensive repair bills.

"At Kwik Fit, we offer a guarantee on air con recharge – if we don't make a system colder, the customer gets their money back."

Kwik-Fit offers air conditioning recharge of refrigerant and lubricant for just £49. Appointments are not always necessary, but can be booked at www.kwik-fit.com.

For the latest news and updates from Kwik Fit, customers can follow the company on Twitter at @kwik_fit .

- Ends -

Note to editors

1. Research carried out by ICM amongst 2,003 UK adults.

About Kwik Fit

Established in 1971, the Kwik Fit Group is one of the largest independent automotive parts, repair and replacement specialists in the world. Kwik Fit has over 600 service centres across the UK and more than 200 mobile tyre fitting vehicles, making it the UK's leading tyre, exhaust, brake and MoT specialist.

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