

## AUTOMOTIVE SOLUTIONS: SUPPORTING KIWI DRIVERS, WHEREVER THE ROAD LEADS

Seasons change and the year moves on, but your Automotive Solutions member is always on hand.

With 65 independent repair centres across New Zealand, Automotive Solutions connects a nationwide group of skilled technicians who share one simple goal: keeping drivers safe, informed, and confidently on the road.

No matter where you are in the country, you'll find the same commitment to honest advice, quality workmanship, and friendly local service. Our member workshops are independently owned and operated, but supported by a trusted national network giving you the best of both worlds.

Whether you're looking for a seasonal checkup or needing an urgent repair, your local Automotive Solutions workshop is here to help with expert servicing, practical guidance, and reliable care for your vehicle.

For automotive care you can count on, visit [automotivesolutions.co.nz](http://automotivesolutions.co.nz)

WOF

REPAIRS

SERVICES

MAINTENANCE

ALL MAKES AND MODELS



## BIG CHANGES TO WOF REQUIREMENTS COMING IN NOVEMBER 2026

### WHAT EVERY VEHICLE OWNER NEEDS TO KNOW

From 1 November 2026, New Zealand's Warrant of Fitness (WoF) rules are changing. The Government and NZTA are introducing a new inspection system designed to reduce costs for motorists while maintaining vehicle safety. While many vehicle owners will benefit from fewer inspections, not every vehicle qualifies straight away.

#### WHAT IS CHANGING?

- **New vehicles**  
Currently, new vehicles require their second WoF after 3 years. From 1 November 2026, the second WoF will be required after 4 years.
- **Vehicles aged 4-14 years**  
Many vehicles will move from annual WoF inspections to inspections every 2 years. However, this change will happen in stages:
  - Vehicles registered on or after 1 November 2019: eligible from 1 November 2026.
  - Vehicles registered between 1 November 2013 and 31 October 2019: eligible from 1 November 2027.
- **Older vehicles**  
Vehicles over 26 years old (registered before 1 January 2000) will move from six-monthly WoFs to annual WoFs.
- **Motorcycles**  
Motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000 will also move from six-monthly inspections to annual inspections.
- **New safety checks**  
WoF inspections will also include checks for certain vehicle safety technologies, including:
  - Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB)
  - Lane Keep Assist systems. Where fitted, these systems must not display warning or fault indicators.
- **Increased penalties**  
While inspection frequency is reducing for many vehicles, penalties are increasing.  
**From November 2026:**
  - Driving with a WoF expired by more than two months may attract a \$350 infringement fee (up from \$200).
  - Fines relating to unsafe wheels and tyres will also increase significantly.



PTO

## BIG CHANGES TO WOF REQUIREMENT CONTINUED

### What this means for you

These changes may save you time and money by reducing the number of inspections required. However, it is important not to assume the new rules apply to your vehicle immediately. Eligibility depends on your vehicle's age and registration date. Even with less frequent inspections, drivers remain responsible for ensuring their vehicle is safe and roadworthy at all times.

### Need help understanding which rules apply to your vehicle?

If you're unsure how these changes affect your vehicle, get in touch with an Automotive Solutions member. We're happy to help you understand your obligations and make sure you stay compliant under the new WoF system.

**CONTACT US TODAY FOR ADVICE.**

## 91 v 95 v 98 OCTANE PETROL

Petrol in New Zealand is commonly available in **91**, **95**, and **98** octane, with each grade offering a higher resistance to engine knock (detonation).

Engines designed for **95** or **98** octane fuel typically have higher compression ratios, turbochargers, or advanced engine management systems. Using the recommended fuel allows the engine to produce its intended power, fuel economy, and emissions performance.

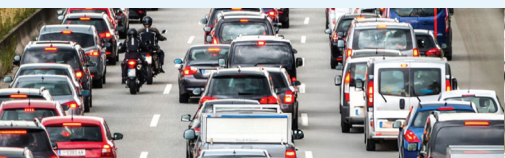
Using a lower octane fuel than specified can cause knocking and pre-ignition, which places excessive stress on internal engine components. Over time, this can damage pistons, piston rings, cylinder walls, valves, spark plugs, and head gaskets, and lead to higher combustion temperatures that may damage the catalytic converter. Consistently using the manufacturer's recommended octane rating, whether **91**, **95**, or **98**, helps prevent costly repairs and ensures your vehicle performs as designed.



## DID YOU KNOW...

### The Longest Traffic Jam Lasted 12 Days

In 2010, a traffic jam near Beijing, China, stretched for about 100 km (62 miles). Some drivers were stuck for nearly two weeks.



### Windshield Wipers Were Invented by a Woman

Mary Anderson patented the first practical windshield wiper in 1903 after noticing streetcar drivers struggling to see through rain and snow.



## CATO'S CROCK POT SPLIT PEA & CHICKEN WINTER STEW

**A family recipe. A hearty, budget-friendly winter warmer that's easy to prepare and perfect for slow cooking.**

### Ingredients

- 1 cup dried split peas, rinsed
- 500g chicken thighs or breast, diced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, diced
- 1 cup rice
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1 teaspoon curry powder (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

### Method

Place the split peas, chicken, onion, carrots and stock into your crock pot.

Cook on Low for 6-8 hours or High for 4-5 hours.

Add the rice during the last hour of cooking.

Season with salt, pepper and curry powder if using.

Stir well and serve with crusty bread.

**Tip:** For an extra creamy texture, stir through a splash of coconut cream before serving.



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to learn lots of tips for car care and meet our friendly Automotive Solutions members.

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