

GET YOUR HANDS ON A DC16

Dyson's first handheld with constant suction is ideal for cleaning the interior of your taxi. The DC16 will pick up all sorts of bits from the seats or floor with no loss of suction thanks to Dyson's patented Root6 cyclone technology™ which has no bag or filter to clog up. The unit looks really funky and it is surprisingly light when you start to use it.

When I tried one of these units for the first time, I was surprised at the power of the unit. The DC16 has twice the suction power of other

cordless handhelds and a full five minute run-time with constant suction due to 21.6 volts of advanced lithium ion battery. It charges up to three times faster than other cordless handhelds too, taking about three hours to fully charge up. The DC16 makes light work of cleaning not only your cab but indoors as well. It has a wide nozzle which can be turned into a stubborn dirt brush, very useful for mud left on the mats of the cab, as well as a crevice tool. Emptying the unit is quick and easy as well, simply hold the unit over

the bin, press a button and the dirt comes out of the cyclinder. The lifetime washable filters never need replacing and the DC16 also has an LED to indicate battery charge levels.

James Dyson says: "We knew existing handhelds didn't work. By miniaturising our multi-cyclone technology, we've created a machine that performs properly and does not lose suction. Whether it's popcorn or pine needles, DC16 devours debris; it's a real knuckle duster!"

WIN A DC16

With a recommended retail price £99.99 the DC16 offers good value for money and will help you keep the passenger compartment of your cab clean. For your chance to win a DC16 simply answer this question:

How many minutes run time does the DC16 have?



Send your answer on a postcard to Dyson Competition Taxi Globe 12 Firs Close Hatfield AL10 8NP. Closing date is 20th August 2008. Don't forget to include your name, address and telephone number.

VAN AAKEN EMISSIONS SYSTEM UPDATE

Back in March 2006, the Van Aaken vADDERS emission system was first approved for the LTI Fairways, then in May and August further approval was granted for TXs. Many owners facing the need to bring their vehicle to the necessary Euro III standard chose this system but then on 3 January 2008, Van Aaken Developments Ltd ceased trading and was placed into administration. Since this time the Public Carriage Office (PCO), in conjunction with the Energy Saving Trust and the administration company concerned, have been trying to get in place after-market support for those taxi owners who have had a Van Aaken system fitted to their taxi who may now need to obtain certain replacement parts.

Dave Stock, Head of Service Delivery at the PCO, said: "Feedback from taxi owners and those maintaining taxis has indicated that the front pipe assembly on this particular system does fail in service. The PCO is pleased to announce that the company who previously supplied the front pipe assembly, including the catalytic convertor, to Van Aaken has agreed to supply this part to the London taxi trade through Richmond Road Cab Centre Ltd, 195 Richmond Road, Hackney E8 3NJ."

Any owners who are experiencing problems with their vADDERS system can speak to Eddie or Paul Crossley at Richmond Road. Some problems can be easily and quickly rectified. You can contact Richmond Road Cab Centre on 020 7275 7589.

PUT YOURSELF IN THE DRIVING SEAT CAMPAIGN GETS RESULTS



According to recently released figures from TfL, the PCO reports that becoming a licensed taxi driver has become an increasingly popular career option for people from London's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. Now almost one in three applicants for the London taxi 'Knowledge' is from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. There are around 1300 licensed taxi drivers from these communities already on the road in the capital today.

TfL launched their "Put yourself in the driving seat" campaign in 2005 to encourage more applications from these groups. Since then the proportion of applications from people of these backgrounds has increased by over 50 per cent.

Information booklets about how to become a licensed taxi or private hire driver have been distributed at post offices, community centres, libraries and job centres across London and publicised via a poster campaign. The PCO has also run road shows, and attended events and job fairs to support the initiative.

Transport Commissioner Peter Hendy said: "Black taxis are an instantly recognisable part of London life, and an incredibly important part of our transport network. It is a welcome reflection of the hard work that Transport for London have been putting in, that this world renowned service is now becoming truly reflective of the diverse communities it serves."

Transport for London's Director of Taxi and Private Hire, Ed Thompson, said: "We have done, and are still doing, a huge amount of work to encourage taxi driver applications from London's many and diverse communities, and we are really pleased that people from all kinds of backgrounds are now coming through the world-famous Knowledge test."

"A taxi driving career in London is one that is open to all, as long as they have the right aptitude and can reach the required standard."

The PCO is also striving to attract more women to the licensed taxi trade. Currently figures show that just under 4% of Knowledge applicants are women and there are just over 400 licensed women drivers.