

SUMMER 2019

LeasePlan

What's next?

# Driving Insights

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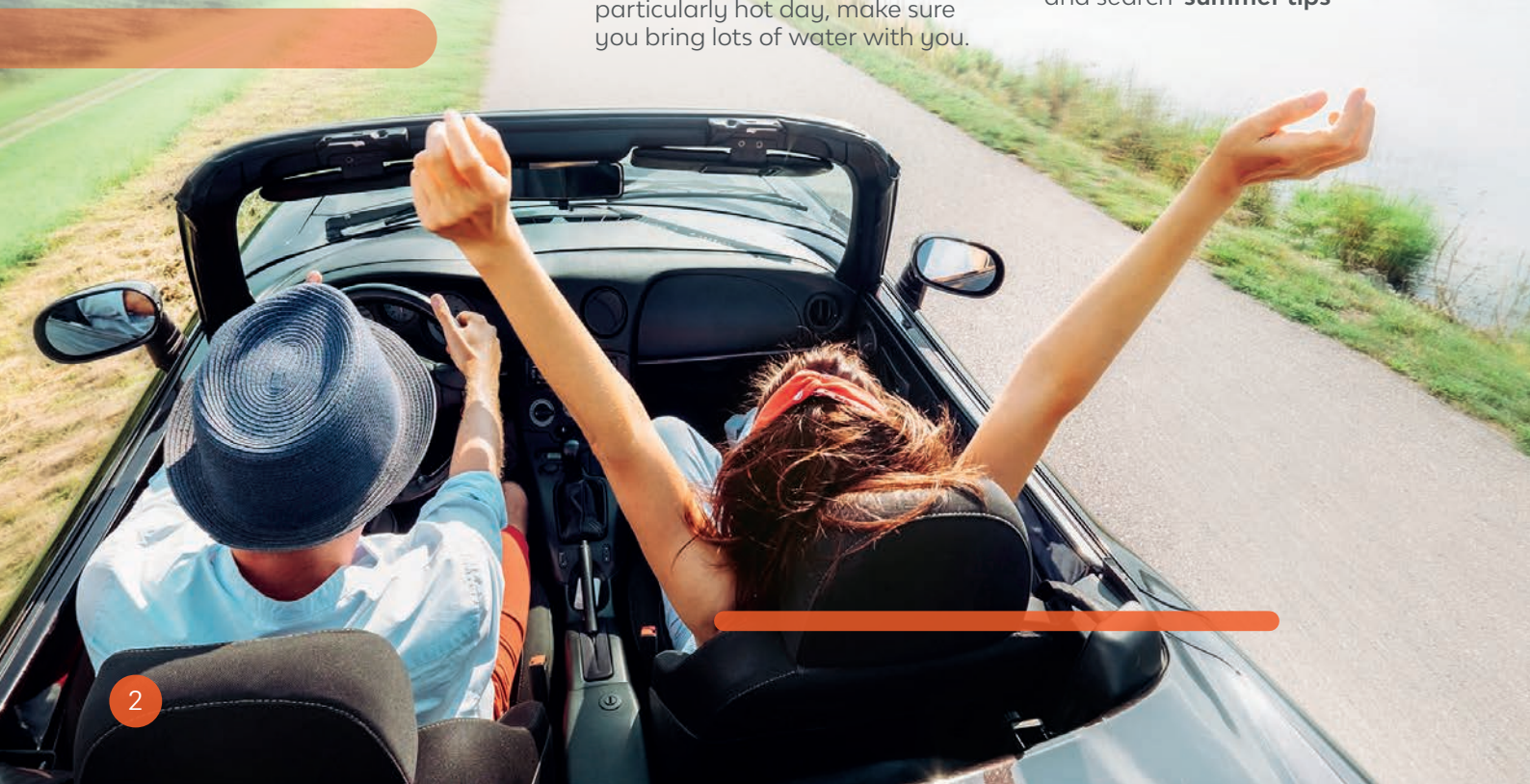
# Loving summer?

We all know about the risks of driving in the winter. But a hot summer brings hazards as well. The good news is that they can be a lot easier to deal with if you do a little preparation. Here are our ten top tips:

1. As the day heats up, so does the road and the air in your tyres. Put a reminder on your phone to check them regularly, so you can make sure they aren't over-pressurised.
2. Avoid your car overheating and potentially damaging your engine by checking the fluid level. If it doesn't reach the full line on the coolant reservoir, add a 50/50 mix of water and coolant until it does. It's a good idea to keep an eye on your oil level as well.
3. Whether it's dust or dead insects, your windscreen can get very dirty on a long summer drive. Keeping your screenwash topped up isn't just a legal requirement, it can help keep you safe by ensuring good visibility. Similarly, if you haven't changed your wipers for a while, it can make sense to put new ones on your car.
4. Heat takes a heavy toll on car batteries, so if you haven't changed yours in the last five years, make sure it is replaced or tested.
5. Keep an emergency kit in your car in case you have a breakdown. This should include a water bottle, warning triangle and jump leads, as well as a reflective emergency blanket that can be used for shade.
6. Read your vehicle service schedule and stick to it. In extreme heat, belts and hoses that provide air-conditioning can crack and blister. Also, pay close attention to engine warning lights.
7. Research suggests that dehydration can lead to a 146% increase in driver errors. When you think that the symptoms include slower reaction times, loss of focus and muscle cramps, this is not surprising. If you're heading out on a long journey, or even a shorter one on a particularly hot day, make sure you bring lots of water with you.
8. Never leave young, elderly or vulnerable people alone in a car. Even with the window left open, the temperature inside the car can end up being double the outside temperature.
9. You should not leave your pet locked in a vehicle, even if you have a sun-visor and window open. As with children, dogs can suffer from heatstroke. This leaves them unable to cool themselves and can be fatal.
10. Always check the temperature of a child's car seat. The uncovered buckles can reach such high temperatures they can cause second degree burns to young children. When not in use, cover the car seat with a blanket to stop the buckles heating up.

For more driving top tips and advice visit:

Visit [insights.leaseplan.co.uk](https://insights.leaseplan.co.uk) and search 'summer tips'



# Plan ahead if you're driving abroad.

If you'll be driving on the Continent this summer, it makes sense to plan ahead. We have an eight-point checklist to help you get ready.

1. If you're driving in France, check to see if you'll need a Crit'Air sticker and if you do, order it well in advance of your date of travel.
2. Tell your leasing provider that you'll be taking the vehicle abroad well before you travel, so you can get a vehicle-on-hire certificate (VE103). All drivers who own their vehicle must be able to produce a V5 vehicle document (logbook).
3. Check you have European Breakdown Cover.
4. Consider giving your car a maintenance check before you head off to help improve fuel economy and avoid preventable accidents.
5. Whether you are travelling for business or pleasure, fully comprehensive insurance is essential for all drivers.
6. Read up on each country's individual driving laws and ensure you comply with them. France, for example, has banned satnavs that are capable of detecting speed cameras and made it compulsory for all cars to carry a warning triangle, a high-visibility safety vest, spare light bulbs, and GB stickers or a number plate with an EU logo.
7. Ensure your driving licence and passport are valid and up to date.
8. Travelling with kids? Check the safety and compliance rules on car seats for each country before you set off.

For more information on the things you must, or should, take when driving in Europe, please visit:

Visit [theaa.com](https://theaa.com) and search 'what I need for driving in europe'



# A breath of fresh air in France.

The French government rolled out The Air Quality Certificate – known as 'Crit'Air' – last year. It requires all cars driving into Paris and other major cities to display a Crit'Air sticker. Critically, this includes foreign cars. If you don't have it, you could face a fine of up to £117.

The sticker indicates how much NO<sub>x</sub> your vehicle produces. It is designed to help officials manage the amount of pollution in major cities by giving them the ability to stop higher category cars from entering on high-emission days.

Vehicles are ranked on six categories; from the cleanest (100% electric and hydrogen vehicles) to pre-2006 diesel vehicles. However, not all diesels will be in the high-polluting categories; those registered since 2011 will rank at level 2, equal to Euro 4 petrol cars (registered from 2006 to 2010).

This new legislation means that drivers of leased cars now need to know the European Emissions Standard of their vehicle in order to apply for a Crit'Air sticker before they travel. They also still need to notify their leasing company, at least four weeks prior to travel, to obtain a Vehicle on Hire (VE103) certificate – in lieu of a vehicle registration certificate (V5C) – and a letter giving written permission needed to drive their car overseas.



To apply for a Crit' Air sticker, visit [certificat-air.gouv.fr/en/](https://certificat-air.gouv.fr/en/)

# Gone in sixty seconds?

## Eight tips to deter keyless car theft.

Keyless technology allows you to open your car door without pressing the open button on your key fob. When you put your hand on your car's door handle, the vehicle sends out a radio signal and, provided your key fob is within range, the door will open.

However, this technology can be vulnerable to hacking, with criminal gangs developing new ways to pick up the signal from a key fob inside a building and transmit it to the car. If you own a keyless vehicle, and you'd like a little peace of mind, here are a few tips to help keep it safe from theft.

- 1. Try to block the signal.** Instead of hanging your keys on a key hook or leaving them on the coffee table, just place them in a metal-lined Faraday pouch or box. This will block the signal from your key to your car, so thieves can't amplify it.
- 2. Make it harder to enhance the signal.** Keyless fobs don't have a great range, so anything you can do to move them away from the car will make it harder for thieves to pick up the signal. When you've parked, try to keep the fob away from the doors and windows of your home or office. Experts suggest keeping your key fob at least five metres from the vehicle, but try leaving it further away if possible, just to be on the safe side.
- 3. Try to switch off your key fob.** Although this varies from manufacturer to manufacturer, it's possible to turn off the signal from some key fobs. The feature isn't always obvious or straightforward, but if you're going on holiday and plan on leaving the key fob at home, it could be worth checking the vehicle handbook or speak to a dealer for guidance on how to switch this functionality off.
- 4. Demobilise your vehicle.** Even if you're usually careful and try to follow these tips, there are times you could make a mistake. But that doesn't mean criminals can leave with your car. If you lock the steering wheel or block your drive, you've made the vehicle harder to move. Adding wheel clamps may seem a little over the top, but it's something to consider if you're leaving your car parked in the same spot for an extended period of time.
- 5. Make sure your car is up to date.** Carmakers are looking for ways to respond to this new threat – such as new frequency technologies, software and keys – so it's worth checking with your dealer occasionally to make sure that your car software is up to date.
- 6. Increase your chances of recovering your car.** You could consider adding a tracking device to your vehicle. If thieves do get away with it, the chances of you getting it back will significantly increase.
- 7. Check your insurance.** Although having the correct insurance won't stop thieves, it's important to check the wording of your policy, as some insurers haven't caught up and changed their policy wording to reflect this new technology. For example, some insurers say there must be signs of 'forcible or violent entry' for them to pay out. It's worth checking this detail with your insurance provider.
- 8. Remember the basics.** Finally, don't forget basic car security measures, such as parking in a well-lit, secure location and removing or hiding any valuables. Also, double-check your doors are firmly shut and that the car is locked before you walk away.

For more information, check out LeasePlan's handy infographic on how to prevent keyless car crime.

Visit [insights.leaseplan.co.uk](https://insights.leaseplan.co.uk) and search 'keyless crime'

# Clearing the air around CAZ and ULEZ.

In April, London became the first UK city to establish an 'Ultra-Low Emission Zone' (ULEZ) – a form of 'Clean Air Zone' (CAZ). Cars and vans that don't meet the emissions standard will have to pay £12.50 a day to drive within the ULEZ, while buses, coaches and HGVs will face a £100 a day fee.

This is part of a long-term strategy to encourage people to drive cleaner cars or use other modes of transport in the hope of improving air quality – and it's not limited to London. The Government has ordered over 60 local authorities to draw up and implement their own clean air plans in the next few years. Councils in Birmingham, Leeds, Derby and Southampton are in the process of either finalising or introducing their own measures. To help motorists, we are dispelling some of the commonly-held myths surrounding Clean Air Zones.

**Myth: All diesel cars will be charged to enter the Clean Air Zone**

**Fact:** In London, only drivers of older diesel cars will be affected. If your diesel car was registered after 2015 and meets the Euro 6 vehicle emission rules, it will be exempt from any additional charges. For petrol cars, the minimum emission standard is Euro 4. (You can check your vehicle's specifications on the Transport for London ULEZ checker.)

However, rules vary depending on the city. Some are introducing non-charging zones, but others, such as Birmingham, will charge non-compliant cars, taxis and vans £8 a day to enter its CAZ.

**Myth: London's ULEZ replaces the congestion charge**

**Fact:** Although the zone will initially cover the same area as the congestion charge, both charges will need to be paid. From 2021, the Clean Air Zone will be expanded to include the area within the North Circular and South Circular ring roads. To find out more, visit the TFL website.

**Myth: The zone only applies at certain times**

**Fact:** London's ULEZ will run 24/7 and this is likely to be standard across all CAZs. There will be a daily charge of £12.50 for vehicles entering the zone that will be reset at midnight.

The ULEZ uses the same payment system as London's Congestion Charge, so you can pay online in advance, on the day you drive or on the following day. Payment can also be made by phone.

**Myth: It's cheaper to pay the daily charge than upgrade your vehicle**

**Fact:** Driving through the CAZ will cost you £12.50 a day, on top of the existing £11.50 daily congestion charge. If you drive through the zone on Monday to Friday every week and your vehicle doesn't meet Euro 6 diesel or Euro 4 petrol rules, it could set you back £6,240 a year. Don't forget that an electric vehicle can also save you an additional £1,000 per year in fuel costs, so it's worth taking this into consideration when looking to upgrade your vehicle.

**Myth: Clean Air Zones will be in every city**

**Fact:** Back in 2015, the Government directed Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Nottingham and Southampton to implement a CAZ by 2020. However, two of these cities – Derby and Nottingham – have pursued other clean air measures.

When CAZs are introduced in the remaining three cities, each will have its own rules and fee structure. For example, Southampton has confirmed its intention to introduce a non-charging CAZ. Meanwhile, Leeds' CAZ will impose charges on dirtier vehicles – but private cars will be entirely exempt.

Various other local authorities have been told to draw up their own clean air plans, which may or may not include CAZs. As these plans start to be ratified and funded, it's certain that more CAZs will pop up across the country.

**Myth: Clean Air Zones are going to spring up suddenly**

**Fact:** According to the government framework, it's vital for local councils to give the public sufficient time to allow drivers and businesses to react to a CAZ in the way that's right for them. Details of any developing zones are to be announced as far in advance as possible and widely publicised so everyone can prepare.

**Myth: There won't be any exemptions to the charge**

**Fact:** This depends on the individual council. For example, Birmingham City Council is planning to offer additional support to those who could find it difficult to make the change away from polluting vehicles. This includes taxi drivers, people on a lower income who live or work in a CAZ, and patients and visitors of some hospitals.

In London, some drivers and vehicles will also qualify for a discount, whereas others will be entirely exempt from paying any charges. For more information, the TFL website has a handy guide to help you identify if you could benefit from any discounts or exceptions.

**Myth: This will affect all businesses with fleets**

**Fact:** Currently, only businesses with vehicles that fall below the minimum emission standard and are required to drive within the very centre will be affected by the new legislation and fees. If your fleet is made up of older, traditionally fueled vehicles or if you're looking to future proof your fleet, it might be worth considering the switch to electric vehicles.

With a growing focus on air pollution and diesel emissions, it seems likely we will start to see many more CAZ proposals and schemes across the country, so it's best to keep an eye on the news in your local area, especially if you're regularly driving through your city centre.

For further information and guidance:

Visit [insights.leaseplan.co.uk](https://insights.leaseplan.co.uk) and search 'clean air zones'

# Promising signs for the ULEZ.

This month, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Kahn, announced the success of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) with initial figures showing that:

- On average, there were 9,400 fewer of the worst-polluting vehicles entering central London each day in the first month of operation.
- 74% of vehicles in the zone in April complied with the new pollution limits, compared with 61% the month before.

Kahn has already committed to expanding the ULEZ to the capital's North and South circular roads from 25 October 2021, as well as introducing stricter emissions standards for HGVs, buses and coaches from 26 October 2020.



# Still no clarity on company car tax rates.

We are still awaiting consultation on how the government plans to mitigate the impact of the worldwide harmonised light testing procedure (WLTP) on company car tax and vehicle excise duty, as well as the Benefit in Kind tax rates that will apply from April 2021. This is a significant issue as approximately 900,000 employees pay Benefit in Kind tax according to HMRC.

The industry has been requesting clarity for some time and fleet managers are feeling the pressure from the uncertainty, as it's difficult to choose cars and fuel types without knowing their tax cost for the next three to four years. Unfortunately, the Government remains tied up with a different challenge – Brexit.

## Online tax guide.

View our simple, easy-to-use online tax guide – in partnership with Deloitte.

[cartaxguide.co.uk/Leaseplan](https://cartaxguide.co.uk/Leaseplan)

# Three new technologies for vehicle charging.

We believe electric vehicles are the future, so we want to keep you informed about all the latest developments. There are three exciting charging technologies currently being worked on:

- 1 Vehicle to Grid (V2G):** This is like using your electric vehicle as a battery for the national grid. If you're not driving it, you could charge it on the cheaper overnight electricity rate and then release the power back to the grid during the day and earn money in the process.
- 2 Wireless charging:** You could potentially charge your car just like your phone, by parking it on a base plate overnight.
- 3 Conductive/inductive road charge:** This could allow you to charge away from your home at the side of the road - or even when you're on the move.

You can find out more about all sorts of new technologies in our latest guide:

Visit [insights.leaseplan.co.uk](https://insights.leaseplan.co.uk) and search 'future fleet'







## Upcoming events

### **Company car in action (12 and 13 June)**

Millbrook Proving Ground, Bedford

Test drive a range of vehicles from a wide selection of manufacturers, including plug-in hybrids (PHEV), pure electric and traditional fuels.

### **Fleet Live (8 and 9 October)**

NEC, Birmingham

### **GreenFleet Events the Road 2 Zero**

London, Swansea, Bath and Sheffield

We'll be taking our Start Electric campaign on tour at four unique events across the UK. Visit us in London, Swansea, Bath and Sheffield for a chance to learn more about the benefits of alternative fuels – how they can reduce greenhouse emissions and improve the air quality of UK cities. There will be talks from expert speakers and the chance to test drive some electric vehicles.

See [events.greenfleet.net/r2z](https://events.greenfleet.net/r2z) for further information

## Driverline

For help with your vehicle please call the LeasePlan Driverline on **0344 493 7644**

## Online customer support

Browse our frequently asked questions to get the answers you need, fast.

[leaseplan.com/en-gb/support/](https://leaseplan.com/en-gb/support/)