

AUTUMN 2019

LeasePlan

What's next?

# Driving Insights

## Autumn driving

View our top tips for safer driving at this time of year

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# Portsmouth council approves clean air charge plan

Positive signs for Portsmouth's air quality as the council agrees plans for a clean air charge.

Portsmouth is taking steps to tackle its poor air quality by proposing a clean air charge of up to £20 a day for the Portsea Island area. This will only apply to commercial vehicles, such as lorries, taxis and buses, which are older than 2006 for petrol engines and 2015 for diesel.

The proposal is now with the Department for Food and Rural Affairs to approve. There is an indication that if it's not successful, the council will consider a city-wide clean air zone for all drivers.

Find all the latest on clean air zones:

[Read more](#)





# Red means stop!

It can be tempting to ignore warning lights, but this may be an expensive mistake. We explore what to watch out for.

If you see a red light on your dashboard, it can indicate a potentially serious problem or safety issue (or a reminder of something that you shouldn't leave for later). Yellow is also important, as it highlights the need for a service or repair.

Until we get talking cars like KITT from Knight Rider – or more advanced in-car information screens (though that would be less exciting) – these lights are the best way for your car to tell you that there's something wrong.

Some, such as those in the graphic on the right are particularly important. When you see them, you need to take action and get them investigated for your safety and your passengers'.

If you have a LeasePlan car and you see a warning light, please [call your DriverLine](#) to book it into our Servicing Network.

*Until we get talking cars like KITT from Knight Rider, these lights are the best way for your car to tell you that there's something wrong.*



Low oil pressure



Check engine light



Anti lock brakes



High engine temperature



Charging system



Tyre pressure monitor

LeasePlan DriverLine

# All you need to know about DPF

If you drive a diesel, one light you don't want to see on your dashboard is the Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) warning. Here's how to look after your particulate filter.

If you drive a diesel, you need to make sure you're taking care of your DPF. This is the part of your car that takes out most (and, in some cases, nearly all) of the soot from your emissions before they enter the atmosphere. If you don't look after the DPF, it can cost you money in lower fuel economy or even in repair charges that aren't part of a standard maintenance contract.

All you have to do is get your car on an A road or motorway on a regular basis, such as every 300 miles. You then need to run it at, or near, the speed limit for 30 to 50 minutes. This will heat up your exhaust and burn off any soot in the filter.

If you don't do this, your car may be able to deal with the soot itself, through a process called 'active regeneration' where it injects extra fuel to raise the exhaust temperature. You can tell when this is happening because your car's fuel economy will drop and the engine noise will change.

The process takes around ten minutes to complete, as long as you keep your revs above 2,000. This may mean changing down a gear or two depending on where you are driving, which could then reduce your fuel economy even more.

If you don't complete the process, or if your car doesn't have active regeneration and you don't burn off the soot regularly, you may need to get the DPF cleaned by a garage (costing around £100) or even have to replace it (which can cost over £1,000).

Just remember that getting rid of it is not an option. You will be committing an offence if you don't meet emissions standards after removing the DPF. This might also invalidate your insurance and it's an automatic MOT fail.

## Five ways to look after your DPF

- 01 Consider using premium fuel, as it is claimed this burns more cleanly
- 02 Use the correct oils for your engine
- 03 Make sure you check the oil level regularly
- 04 Change your oil in line with the service requirements, as old oil may mean the DPF doesn't reach the right temperature
- 05 Check which warning light relates to the DPF – and if it comes on, don't ignore it.

*...get your car on an A road or motorway... run it at, or near, the speed limit for 30 to 50 minutes*



# What's in the bag?

Our safety kit is designed to help when you have a breakdown or emergency. Here's a quick guide to what it contains.

While driving is a lot safer now than it once was, it's still one of the most dangerous things that people do on a regular basis.

We want to look after our drivers, so we've developed our own safety kit, which is full of essential items for breakdowns and emergencies.

If you have one of these kits, it can pay to be prepared, so you know what you have and how to use it if the worst happens.

- 1. High vis jacket:** Keep this in the glovebox, so you can get it straight away if you have to leave the vehicle.
- 2. Warning triangle:** If you break down, this helps warn motorists that your car has stopped in the road. Don't forget to get yourself to safety as well.
- 3. Safety hammer:** This will smash glass if you need to get out in an emergency, so make sure it's somewhere you can easily get to (and not in a box in the boot).

- 4. Dashcam:** This constantly keeps track of what's happening around you. If you have an accident, remember to leave your hazards on and your dashcam running. We have some ideas for looking after your dashcam in the box on the right.

#### Two extra tips for emergencies

- 1.** Make sure your wheels are straight or turned out to the road, so if your car does get hit from behind, it won't come up the bank or reservation towards you.
- 2.** Download the *what3words* app. If you're stranded and can't see any useful landmarks, this will help emergency services pinpoint your location to a 3m<sup>2</sup> area.



- 1. Positioning:** You need to put it in the centre of the windscreen, as high as possible – upside down if necessary, as you can always edit the footage. It should not be more than 40mm into the area covered by the wiper blades or be above the steering wheel.
- 2. Concentration:** Switch off the screen when you're driving, so it doesn't become a distraction.
- 3. GPS:** If your dashcam offers it, make full use of GPS logging, as it shows where the footage was taken and how fast you were travelling.
- 4. Storage:** You need to make sure you have a large-enough and fast-enough memory card for the camera. We'd suggest at least a class 6 16GB card, though larger and faster cards are now very affordable.
- 5. Quality:** Higher resolution is better, but it takes up more space and needs a faster card. Go with the highest resolution your card can handle – and make sure it is at least HD, though Full HD is better.
- 6. Sight:** The camera needs a clear view of the road, so remove anything hanging in your windscreen that might get in the way.
- 7. Sound:** This takes up storage space and doesn't really add very much, so it normally makes sense to mute it.
- 8. Test:** When your camera is all set up, run a quick test to make sure it's producing the footage you want, in a quality you're happy with – and that there are no storage problems.



# Autumn driving

Autumn is lovely time of year, but it can be difficult for drivers. Here are our tips for coping with the conditions.

Autumn might be the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”, but it can also be a difficult time for drivers.

The sun is lower in the mornings and evenings, particularly after the clocks go back on 27 October. This means there’s more chance of getting dazzled – and if it’s not in your eyes, there’s a chance it’s affecting the drivers coming towards you.

However, you can take steps to limit the effects:

- **Have sunglasses to hand**
- **Keep both sides of your windscreen clean**
- **Turn on your headlights even when the sun is still out, as it will help other drivers see you**
- **Check your bulbs regularly to make sure they’re working**
- **Keep your washer fluid topped up**

*The sun is lower in the mornings and evenings, particularly after the clocks go back on 27 October.*

Want more top tips for this time of year?

[View infographic](#)

# Keep your car looking nicer, for longer

Want to keep your car in great condition? Here are a few things you can do that don't take any effort.

It takes a lot of work to maintain a car at showroom levels over the years, but keeping it in good condition is a lot easier. It just takes a few simple steps.

## 1. Plan ahead

Cars are getting bigger, but parking spaces aren't – and this means scratches and dents. However, if you're careful where you park, you can avoid a lot of the risks. Keep clear of spaces where cars might be turning, as they could scrape you without realising, and where possible, pick a space without cars next to you.

## 2. Get it under cover

It's not an option for everyone, but if you can park underneath a roof, it should keep away bird droppings, sap, pollen and twigs. A garage might even cut your premiums, though it's worth remembering that if you declare it in this way, you will need to park in it.

## 3. Look after the paintwork

Even if you do your best to avoid them, your car will still pick up the occasional scrape and ding. If this breaks the paintwork, remember to recoat it, as it will help protect against rust.

## 4. Keep it clean

Similarly, clean the inside regularly – and clean up any spills when they happen. It can be much harder to get things out once they've dried or been ground into the carpet.

## 5. Don't skip services

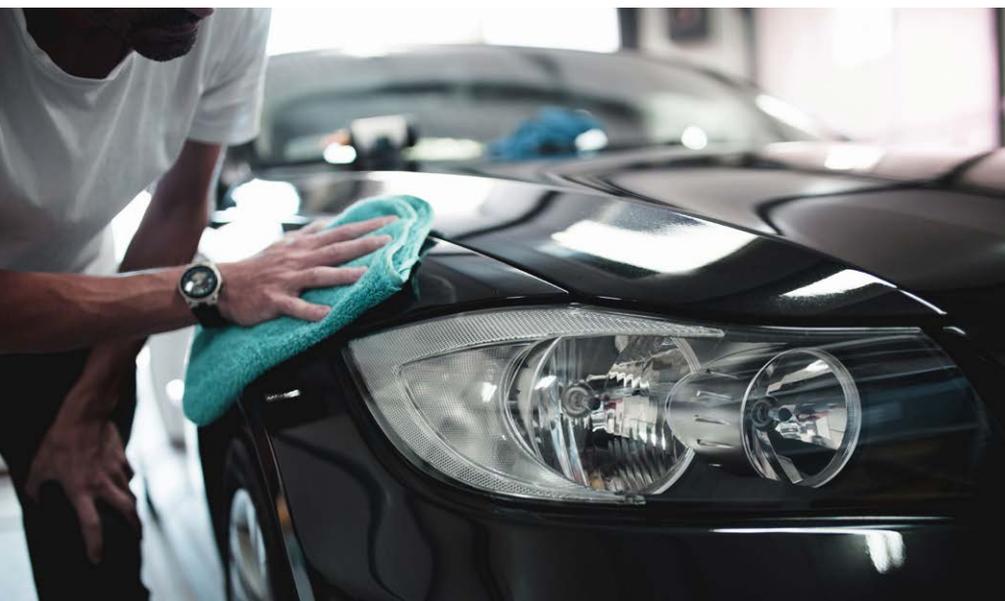
You'll know when your regular service is due, so don't let it run late – and if you see a red or yellow warning light, get an expert involved. (There's more about some of these lights [on page 3.](#))

## 6. Be tyre aware

If your tyres are below, or even close to, the limit, your car will take longer to stop in an emergency, which can put you and your family in danger. Checking them regularly can help you make sure you have enough tread.

## 7. Watch the clock

Finally, if you have a lease car, remember that you signed up for a specific mileage each month. Keep an eye on what you're doing and if you're well over (or under) this level, get in touch with your customer service team.



## Does your vehicle have some damage?

Read our Fair Wear and Tear guidelines the and advice on preparing your vehicle for return at contact end.

[Advice & Guidelines](#)

# The latest ideas from Frankfurt

For a couple of weeks in September, the Frankfurt motor show looks at the future of motoring – though this year, it also harked back to the past, with a nostalgic, retro theme.

That said, the biggest topic was still electric and there were some notable highlights, including:

- Vauxhall Corsa-e
- Mercedes Vision EQS
- Lamborghini Sian hybrid supercar
- The long-awaited Land Rover Defender – eight years in the making
- Full production model of the electric Honda e
- The brand-new Hyundai i10 city car
- Debut for Volkswagen ID.3
- Porsche Taycan – all-electric model
- Volkswagen T-Roc Cabriolet – convertible junior SUV
- BMW Concept 4



Porsche Taycan >



Land Rover Defender >



Vauxhall Corsa-e >



BMW Concept 4 >

## Brexit impact for motorists

The potential implications of Brexit for motorists.

[Read our latest advice](#)

## 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.

[Online customer support](#)