

AUTUMN 2020

LeasePlan

# Driving Insights

**What's on  
the horizon?**

Testing a new speed limit  
for motorways

Staying safe when  
the sun is low

12 rules for better driving

Do you know about your DPF?



News & updates:

# Testing a new speed limit for motorways

Research suggests that driving more slowly on motorways can help reduce emissions at the roadside.

**With many parts of the motorway network potentially exceeding the recommended levels of NO<sub>2</sub>, Highways England has decided to test a new 60mph limit on four sections of motorway to see if this helps.**

The initial areas are the M6 near Birmingham, the M1 at Rotherham, the M602 near Eccles and the M5 at Oldbury.

This is the first time a speed limit has been changed purely to deal with emissions and the test will run for at least 12 months. If it is successful, it could be rolled out to more motorways in the UK, while if it isn't, other measures will be explored. Early indications are that the slower speed limit has reduced emissions by almost 20%.



## Tighter rules for mobile phone use in cars



**It used to be that regulations stated you couldn't use your phone 'to communicate' while driving, which allowed one motorist to escape a conviction last year when they used their phone to film a crash.**

The law has now been tightened up and you can't use your phone in any way while behind the wheel - even to change a song on a playlist, reject a call or, at the extreme, use it to pay for food at a drive-through. This also applies if you are using your phone as a satnav. You can't touch it to make changes to your route once you've started driving.

*Put simply, don't touch your phone in any way when your car is moving.*

Driving tips:

# Staying safe when the sun is low

While many people are familiar with the challenges of driving in dazzling summer sunlight, the low sun you get in autumn can also present significant risks, particularly as it's harder to block with your car's visors.

- 1 Clean the inside of your windscreen:**  
Low sun can highlight any grime on the inside of your windscreen. Wiping it down with a good screen cleaner will make it much easier to see where you're going.
- 2 Keep the outside of your windscreen clean:**  
Anything on the other side of your screen can also affect your vision. Wiping it down regularly and keeping your screen wash topped up will help keep you safe – and think about changing your wipers if you haven't done it recently.
- 3 Make it easier for other drivers to see you:**  
Keeping your headlights on will help drivers coming the other way see your car – and remember to check the bulbs to make sure they're working, as it's not something you can see behind the wheel unless you also drive at night.
- 4 Have sunglasses in the car:**  
It may seem strange to be wearing sunglasses when it isn't actually that bright outside, but they will make a big difference with the glare.
- 5 Keep track of where the sun is in the sky:**  
If the sun is behind you, other cars will find it harder to see your vehicle, so drive accordingly.





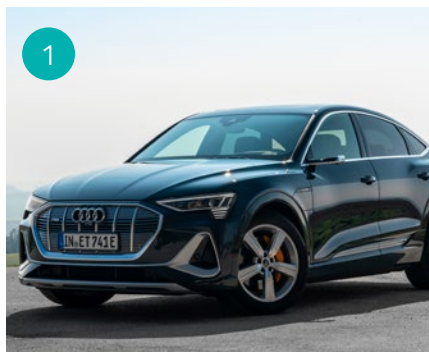
Electric vehicles:

# What's on the horizon?

With new electric vehicles entering the market from the major manufacturers at an increasing rate, the choice has never been greater. Here is a quick overview on the latest batch of imminent EV launches.

## Planned EV launches 2020-21

- 1 Audi e-tron Sportback
- 2 MG 5
- 3 Volkswagen ID 3
- 4 SsangYong Korando EV
- 5 Mercedes-Benz EQA
- 6 Mercedes-Benz EQV
- 7 Tesla Model S Plaid
- 8 Tesla Model X Plaid





7 Volvo XC40 Recharge P8

8 Citroen e-C4

Audi Q4 e-tron

9 Audi E-tron GT

Pininfarina Battista

10 Tesla Model Y

11 Tesla Roadster

Rivian R1T

12 BMW iX 3

13 Cupra el-Born

14 Fiat 500

15 Ford Mustang Mach-E

Lotus Evija

16 Skoda Enyaq iV



# LeasePlan launches a new EV tool

If you've been tempted go electric, but aren't sure if it's right for you, try our new EV tool. It explores how you use your car and then suggests what sort of vehicle might best suit your needs.

Even if you're a committed petrol or diesel driver, it's well worth taking a look. You might be surprised at what you discover!

Vehicle maintenance:

# Do you know about your DPF?

Diesel drivers need to know about – and look after – the DPF (diesel particulate filter). It's a small part of your vehicle that can lead to big costs if you're not careful. You could see reduced fuel economy and, potentially, need an expensive replacement.

## How to look after it

The DPF takes out most (and, in some cases, nearly all) of the soot from your emissions before they enter the atmosphere. This soot then needs to be cleared away before it blocks the filter.

The easy way to do this is to run your car on an A road or motorway for ten to 20 minutes at speeds of at least 40mph every 300 miles or so. This will heat up the exhaust and burn away the soot.

Ideally, you'll do this as part of your day-to-day driving, but if you find yourself making shorter journeys at the moment, please consider adding in the occasional longer run to keep things ticking over.

With some vehicles, the car may be able to deal with the soot itself if you aren't making longer trips. It does this 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.

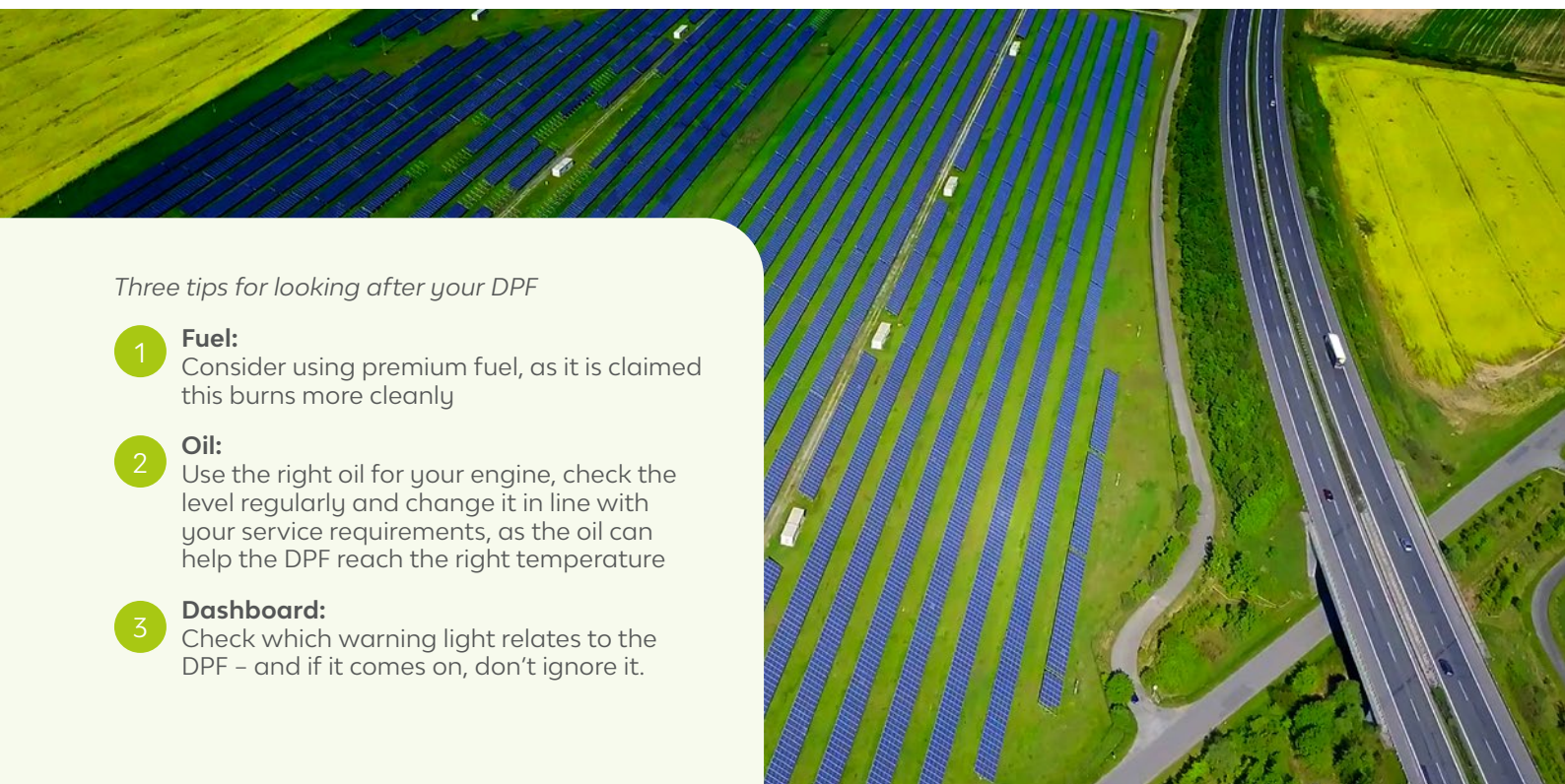
The process takes around ten minutes to complete, as long as you keep your revs above 2,000. This may mean changing down a gear or two depending on where you are driving, which could then reduce your fuel economy even more.

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.

## Three tips for looking after your DPF

- 1 Fuel:** Consider using premium fuel, as it is claimed this burns more cleanly
- 2 Oil:** Use the right oil for your engine, check the level regularly and change it in line with your service requirements, as the oil can help the DPF reach the right temperature
- 3 Dashboard:** Check which warning light relates to the DPF – and if it comes on, don't ignore it.





News & updates:

# 12 rules for better driving

While some accidents are unavoidable, the vast majority are caused by driver error.

Here are our 12 rules to help you keep yourself, and everyone else, safe.

- 1 Belt up:** Make sure all passengers, and the driver, are wearing seat belts.
- 2 Move up:** Headrests must be in the correct position to be effective.
- 3 Slow up:** Stick to the speed limit and only overtake if it is safe.
- 4 Back up:** Keep a safe distance from the car in front.
- 5 Wise up:** Drive according to the conditions, especially in bad weather.
- 6 Check up:** Check brakes, tyres and lights regularly to make sure they are working.
- 7 Wake up:** Take a break every two hours on long journeys and try not to drive tired.
- 8 Lock up:** Make sure you don't touch your mobile phone while driving. [See why on page 2.](#)
- 9 Look up:** For people on bikes, scooters and on foot.
- 10 Sober up:** Don't drive with drugs or alcohol in your system.
- 11 Perk up:** Stay alert at all times while driving.
- 12 Sharpen up:** Wear glasses/lenses if your eyesight is poor.

## Go Dutch for safer cyclists

One of the big risks for cyclists is car doors opening into their paths. But a small change in driver behaviour can significantly reduce the chances of this happening.

It's called the 'Dutch Reach' and it means opening your door with the hand that's furthest from it. (So, the left hand if you are driving a UK car.) This twists your body towards the window and increases your chances of spotting anyone cycling up beside you.



## Don't get tired of checking your tyres

Looking after your tyres will help keep you safe on the road – and could save you money. As well as reducing your braking distances, tyres that are well cared for should offer better fuel economy and last longer. Plus, you'll avoid any risk of a £2,500 fine and three penalty points for driving with tyres below the legal limits.

The best news of all is that it's really easy to do. Once a month, just check air pressure, condition and tread depth. If the air pressure is low, pump the tyres up. If the condition or tread isn't right, you'll need a trip to the garage.

Remember, the legal limit for tread is 1.6mm across the whole circumference of the tyre (not just in one spot), and your braking distance is significantly affected by having less tread on your tyres, especially in cold and wet conditions.

At LeasePlan we replace tyres at 2mm, and you can check out how to test your tread depth by going to <https://www.leaseplan.com/en-gb/my-lease-vehicle/tyres/> where you will find lots of tips on how to keep your tyres safe and legal plus, if you have LeasePlan Maintenance, you can book an appointment if your tyres need changing.





# Need support?

To get the right support quickly, please visit our customer support page:

