

AUTUMN 2023

LeasePlan

Driving Insights

Driving in autumn

Staying safe when
the sun is low

The golden hour of accidents

Keep your car looking
nicer, for longer

Online car tax guide 2023/24

Electric vehicles:
Understanding the opportunity



Seasonal driving tips: **Driving in autumn**

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

Autumn | Seasonal driving tips and safety reminders:

- 01 Tread Carefully on Wet Leaves:**
Wet leaves on the road can turn your drive into a slippery situation. Take it slow to ensure you can stop quickly if needed.
- 02 Keep an Eye on Tyre Pressure:**
Temperature changes can cause fluctuations in tyre pressure. Regularly check your tyres to maintain optimal performance on the road.
- 03 Adjust for Decreased Daylight:**
With the clocks 'falling back' and changing on 28 October, be extra cautious during decreased daylight hours. Stay aware and adjust your driving accordingly.
- 04 Illuminate the Night:**
As evenings darken, switch on your headlights earlier. Watch out for pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users.
- 05 Halloween Hazards:**
With trick-or-treaters out and about, drive attentively. Be on the lookout and adjust your speed accordingly.
- 06 Fireworks Night Caution:**
Fireworks can startle animals with loud noises. Drive with extra care to avoid accidents and ensure the safety of our four-legged friends.



Fleet Risk and Driver Safety

Fleet Risk Management

To discover more about Fleet Risk and Driver Safety take a look at our whitepaper on our 'Rethinking Risk' area of our website Fleet Risk Management.

[Find out more](#)

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.

- 01 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.
- 02 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.

There's more chance of getting dazzled as the sun is lower in the mornings and evenings, particularly after the clocks go back on 30 October.

- 03 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.
- 04 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.
- 05 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.





Accident management:

The golden hour of accidents

While it may be difficult to remember right after you've been in an accident, getting in touch with your Accident Management provider as quickly as you can (once it's safe to do so), could save you a lot of time and trouble in the weeks ahead. Ideally, you want to do it within the first hour after your accident.

Supporting LeasePlan customers

If you're a LeasePlan customer, you can call our DriverLine at any time. We're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so we're always here when you need us.

Doing this means that while you're dealing with any challenges you face from the accident, our team will be working hard to ensure that everything to do with your car or van goes as smoothly as possible – from dealing with your insurer to arranging repairs and sorting out a replacement vehicle. They can also help with any medical issues that you have after the accident.

LeasePlan DriverLine

If you are a LeasePlan driver and you've been involved in an incident, please remember to call the DriverLine – add this number to your phone today.

0345 250 0000

Making sure you have the necessary information

It's also a good idea to bring together as much information as possible right away so you can pass it on to our team. We suggest that you:

- 01 Make a detailed account of events, as it may be required for a witness statement
- 02 Take down details of the other party involved in the accident, including a mobile phone number
- 03 Get details of any witnesses to the accident (name, address, mobile number)
- 04 Look around... are there any CCTV cameras in the area? Could your insurer get hold of CCTV footage?
- 05 Check your dash cam footage is available (if you have one fitted)
- 06 Use your phone to take images or video of the incident and the surroundings as quickly as possible (if it is safe to do so)
- 07 Tell us if you have a tracker/telematics device fitted, as this is useful for geo-positioning
- 08 Make a sketch of incident, including pre-accident positions, if you have some paper to hand. If you have smartphone, use a note-taking or drawing app to sketch the scene and intended route.
- 09 Capture details of any emergency services that attended the scene, including any reference numbers or contact details that they provided.



Maintenance tips:

Keep your car looking nicer, for longer

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.

01 Plan ahead

Cars are getting bigger, but parking spaces aren't – and this means an increased risk of 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.

02 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.

03 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.

04 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.

05 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.

06 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.

07 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 for advice on preparing your vehicle for return at contact end.

[Advice & guidelines](#)

News and 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.
- 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.

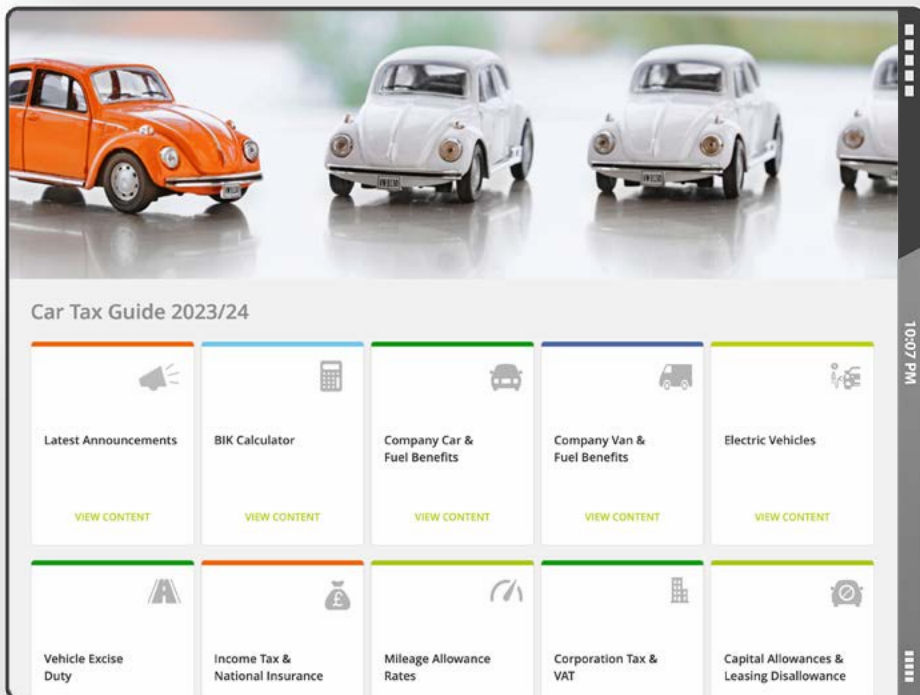
At LeasePlan we replace tyres at 2mm, and you can check out how to test your tread depth by going to <https://www.leaseplan.com/en-gb/my-lease-vehicle/tyres/> where you will find lots of tips on how to keep your tyres safe and legal plus, if you have LeasePlan Maintenance, you can book an appointment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



News and updates:

Online car tax guide 2023/24

We understand how important it is to know the latest rules for company cars, so we've partnered with Deloitte to create an online guide.



The guide brings it all together in one place. It covers everything from road tax and corporation tax to mileage allowances and fuel benefits – plus all the latest announcements.

- **BIK Calculator**
- **Company car and fuel benefits**
- **Company van and fuel benefits**
- **Electric vehicles**
- **Vehicle excise duty**
- **Income Tax and National Insurance**
- **Mileage allowance rates**
- **Corporation tax and VAT**
- **Capital allowances and leasing disallowance**



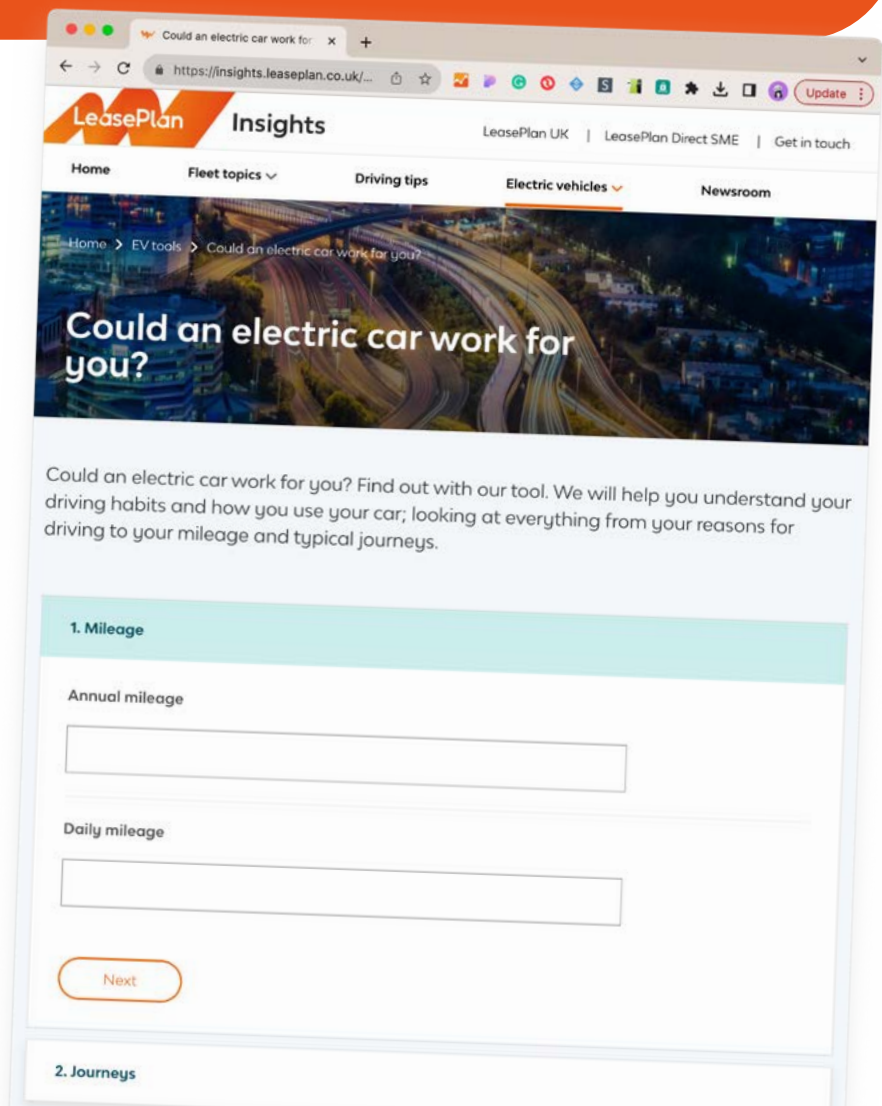
Electric vehicles: Understanding the opportunity

We've created a set of EV tools designed to make it easier for you to evaluate how well these vehicles might work in your business.

The tools can help car and van drivers explore if an EV would be right for them, as well as giving you a way to calculate how much an electric vehicle might cost you to run on a per mile basis.

We have five tools all designed to help you evaluate if a EV could work for you or your business:

- 01 Is an electric car right for me?
- 02 EV versus ICE comparator
- 03 Which fuel is right for your van?
- 04 How EV ready is your fleet?
- 05 Cost per mile calculator



Could an electric car work for you? Find out with our tool. We will help you understand your driving habits and how you use your car, looking at everything from your reasons for driving to your mileage and typical journeys.

1. Mileage

Annual mileage

Daily mileage

[Next](#)

2. Journeys

DriverLine

For help with your vehicle please call the
LeasePlan DriverLine on **0345 250 0000**

