

WINTER 2023-2024

LeasePlan

Driving Insights

Winter Driving Special Edition

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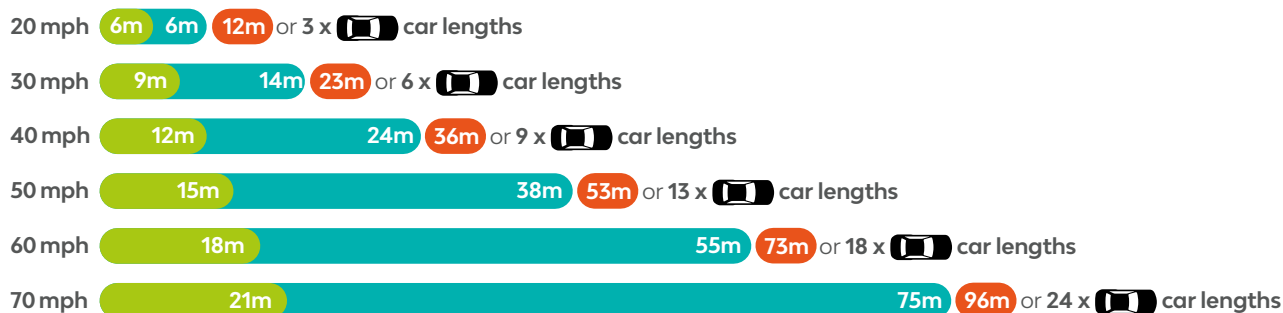
Seasonal driving tips:

Remember your stopping distances

By understanding stopping and braking distances, you will be able to judge the space needed between the car ahead of you and your car. This means you will have plenty of reaction time if someone suddenly stops and have full view of the road ahead, avoiding a collision.



In good weather and clear road conditions:



Thinking distance

How far you travel before you react to something in front of you.



Braking distance

How far you travel between pressing the brakes and the car coming to a stop.



Total stopping distance

Combined thinking and braking distance.

Adjust your driving to the conditions



In wet conditions:

Double the gap between you and the car in front.



Double the gap



In icy conditions:

Leave a far bigger gap. Some advice suggests increasing it by as much ten times.



Leave a far bigger gap





Driver advice:

Five motoring scams to watch out for

A recent Guardian article highlighted the high incidence of scams in the UK this year – with nearly 1.4 million cases in the first six months. That's equal to one every 12 seconds.

01 Scam: Chargepoint payments

Background: Membership-free access (via a web portal or contactless card) is mandatory for all rapid chargepoints and some networks have sites offering similar ad-hoc payments for slower units.

The scam: Ionity and Ubitricity have warned that QR codes linking to their payment portals are being replaced, directing drivers to sites that steal their bank details.

Avoiding it: Smartphone apps (either the network's own, or a roaming provider such as Bonnet or Zap-Pay) are the most secure way to pay for charging. Otherwise, look out for tampering on signs and if you're concerned, search manually for the network's website and payment portal.

02 Scam: Cashless car parks

Background: Most large car park operators have smartphone apps for taking payments, while some have a secure web portal or phone line for drivers to enter their details.

The scam: Scammers have set up alternative websites to steal drivers' card details, either by replacing QR codes on signposts or boosting their rankings on search engines.

Avoiding it: Keep an eye out for alterations to signs and look for spelling 'mistakes' in web addresses. A genuine payment portal will also have an SSL certificate, so you'll see a padlock symbol on your browser's address bar and the URL will begin with "https://".

03 Scam: Card skimming at fuel pumps

Background: While chip and PIN cards are more secure than swiping and signing, they are still vulnerable to attacks

The scam: Installing a slimline device called a 'skimmer' in a card reader enables fraudsters to scrape bank details from the chip. A 2017 poll by the European Association for Secure Transactions found 14% of bank cards were compromised at fuel stations.

Avoiding it: Skimmers can't record a PIN, so look out for anything unusual on the pump's keypad and always cover your hand while entering your number. If the pump looks suspicious, pay at the kiosk instead.

04 Scam: DVLA requests

Background: All drivers are used to getting emails and letters from the DVLA, which has made the agency easier to spoof.

The scam: Fraudsters contact drivers to request licence and bank information for tax refunds and unpaid bills. The DVLA says reports of fraudulent emails, text messages and phone calls increased by 603% in the 12 months to Q3 2020.

Avoiding it: The DVLA will never ask for bank details via texts or emails and it advises against sharing licence or vehicle information online. Anyone with queries should only get in touch using contact details published on websites with a "gov.uk" domain name.

05 Scam: Clean Air Zone charges

Background: There are currently 13 Clean Air Zones in the UK, each with their own set of rules governing which vehicles (if any) are charged to enter.

The scam: Drivers receive text messages notifying them about unpaid fines and charges after scammers have set up pages to scrape bank details or steal money.

Avoiding it: Penalty Charge Notices are issued by post, so drivers are advised to ignore text messages. It's also important to avoid third-party websites, as they often add processing fees, and some don't pay the charge quickly enough to avoid fines, while others just steal drivers' money.

Help stop the scammers

If you spot a scam, please do report it. You'll be helping to protect other drivers and playing a role in tracking down the people responsible.

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/how-to-report-fraud>

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/phishing-scams>



Winter driving advice:

Staying safe on the roads this winter

Planning ahead: Safe driving always starts with preparation – and that’s even more important in winter. We think there are two things that are essential to do.

Ready for the conditions

Winter conditions put extra demands on cars, so you need to be ready for them.

- **Get your battery serviced.** For a start, it might need to work harder, with more heating, lights on for longer in the day and more use of wipers. Plus, batteries can struggle in cold conditions, so you want to be sure the car will start when you need it to.
- **Check your tyres.** In the cold and wet, you need your car to grip the road, so make sure your tyres are inflated correctly and they have enough tread depth.
- **Increase the strength of your screen wash.** You don’t want it to freeze, as you won’t be able to clean your windscreen when you need to.
- **Replace damaged wipers.** It’s likely they’ll see more work in winter, so you want to be certain they’ll keep your windscreens clear.
- **Check that all your lights are working.** It gets darker much earlier and the weather often affects visibility, so you want to be able to see where you are going – and for other drivers to see you clearly.
- **Check for cracks in your windows.** Cold conditions can cause cracks to spread more quickly, so spotting them and getting them fixed could save you money as well as keeping you safe.

Ready for emergencies

While a breakdown is never good news, it can be particularly bad in winter. Not only is it likely to be colder and darker than other times of the year, you could be waiting for longer, as recovery services tend to be busier as well.

With that in mind, here’s our suggestion for kit to keep in your car. Some of it applies all year round, of course, but we think there are a few extra items that it’s worth adding in the colder months.

All-year equipment

- **High-vis jacket**
- **Torch**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Spare tyre or a breakdown kit** (containing tyre sealant and a compressor)
- **First aid kit**
- **Jump leads**
- **Sunglasses** (for summer or winter sunshine)

Extra winter equipment

- **Windscreen scraper** (or de-icer)
- **Warm coats or jumpers, in case you have to wait by the side of the road**
- **Waterproofs**
- **Emergency blanket**
- **Pair of boots or shoes with strong grip**
- **Folding snow shovel**
- **Piece of carpet, mat or cardboard to put under your tyres to create grip**
- **Food and drink** (though don’t leave liquids in the car overnight)



Winter driving advice:

Staying safe on the roads this winter

Driving safely: Driving in the winter is very different than at other times of the year. A single journey may involve different weather, road and traffic conditions, so we need to be prepared for each one. This means that we need to adapt the way we drive to the conditions.

01 Use the right gears

When setting off, using a higher gear with lower revs will give you more control over the vehicle. This also applies when you are driving in slippery conditions and snow, but don't go so slowly that you risk losing momentum and becoming stranded.

02 Focus on your steering when you skid

If you do get into a skid in snow or ice, it's best to take your feet off the pedals and steer the vehicle to safety. Only use your brakes when it is not possible to steer your way out of trouble.

03 Leave space for braking

Take a look at our braking distance graphic on [page 2](#) and remember to leave enough space to stop slowly. Plus, try to use a low gear earlier than normal if you have a manual car and remember to apply the brakes gently.

04 Use the right roads wherever possible

In icy or snowy conditions, main roads are much more likely to have been gritted, plus the flow of traffic can help keep them clear. It's also worth remembering that if you get into difficulties, a breakdown vehicle should find it significantly easier to get to you if you are on a main road.

05 Go slow in fog and snow

If you have to drive in heavy snowfall or thick fog, use dipped headlights or fog lights. In addition, if the conditions come on suddenly (which can happen easily with both fog and snow), remember to slow down gradually and keep your distance from the car in front. With a sudden drop in visibility, if you brake hard, the vehicle behind you might not notice in time to react.

06 Watch out for potholes

Freezing temperatures are more likely to create potholes, while wet conditions can make them harder to see – or, if you do see them, harder to work out how deep they are. Potholes are always worth avoiding, as they can damage your vehicle. But in difficult conditions, they can also cause you to lose control of the vehicle temporarily, which could then lead to bigger problems if the roads are slippery.

07 Take care around flood water

Heavy rain or melting snow can create flood water on the road. The deepest water is normally by the kerb, so if you have to drive through, try to use the middle of the road. You should also take your time, avoid sudden acceleration and remember to check your brakes once you've reached the other side. That said, an even better option is to take a different route, particularly on country roads that have plants growing on both sides, as the water may be much deeper than you realise.



Winter driving advice:

Driving an electric car in winter

If you're fortunate enough to own an electric car, you will likely see a few benefits in winter that other drivers miss out on, such as the ability to turn on your car's heating through an app.

This means you can get in a warm car with an unfrozen windscreen every morning – rather than running late having to scrape away at the screen and then wait for the condensation to clear.

However, there are also a few extra points you need to keep in mind to stay safe on the roads. They're not difficult to do, but they're worth remembering alongside the suggestions we've made on the previous pages that apply to all vehicles in winter conditions.

Regenerative braking

Single-pedal driving, or regenerative braking, is one of the great joys of driving an electric car. It works by turning the kinetic energy of the car into chemical energy that's stored in the car's battery, so it's also good for the driver and the environment.

However, you should seriously think about turning it off during winter. On slippery roads, the brake-like force to the wheels can cause a loss of grip, reducing the tyre's ability to help steer the vehicle. This can result in the vehicle going into an uncontrolled and potentially dangerous slide.

It should be easy to switch it off through the in-car interface (if you're unsure about how to do this, just check your vehicle manual). You can then switch it back on in the spring when the weather improves.

Battery temperature

While batteries are a concern for all drivers in cold conditions, they are a particular challenge for electric car owners. Some models see a drop of around 10% to 30% in range until the battery has warmed up. Charging speeds can also be affected, with home charging sometimes taking an hour or two longer than usual, while rapid charging could take an extra 15 minutes or so.

The best option is to store your car somewhere away from the weather, such as in a garage. But we know that's not an option for a lot of people. Another solution is to set your battery charging to finish just as you're ready to go out, as the charging process helps keep it warm. It's also worth using

pre-heating features, which allow you to warm your vehicle before you leave. All of this can usually be done through a mobile phone app, making it highly efficient and convenient.

For a few more ideas about how you can improve your car's range in cold conditions, please read the box below.

Tyres

We already mentioned tyre pressure on the previous pages, but it's even more important for electric cars. They tend to be heavier than their petrol or diesel equivalents, while the battery position gives them a lower centre of gravity. This puts extra strain on the tyres – as does the fact they tend to respond quicker when you are accelerating.

Keeping your range up when the mercury falls

It's likely your car's range will fall to some extent in cold conditions, but there's a lot you can do to keep this to a minimum. As well as the heating suggestions we've made in the article, you could:

- **Make sure your tyres are inflated correctly**
- **Think about installing winter tyres** (as long as your insurer allows it)
- **Remove any excess weight from the vehicle**
- **Keep the battery above 20%, as this supports its thermal management system**
- **Encourage your passengers to keep their coats and jumpers on in the car**
- **Use heated seats and a heated steering wheel to warm people up, as they use less power than the aircon system**
- **Use eco-mode**
- **Drive more slowly and efficiently** (which is generally a good idea in difficult conditions anyway)



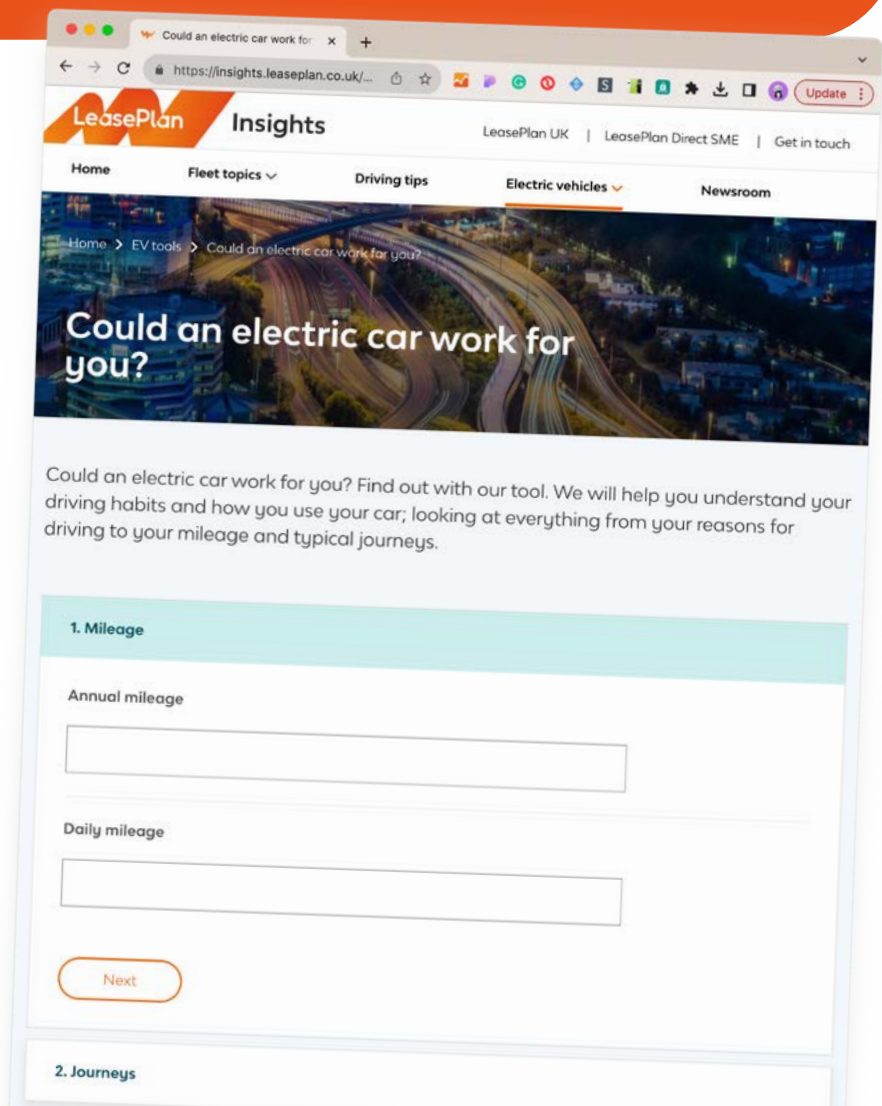
Electric vehicles: Understanding the opportunity

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

News:

Ten new cars to look out for in 2024

We've had many great new cars hit our roads in the past year, but what does 2024 have in store for us?

- 01 Alfa Romeo Brennero:**
A small SUV with a 154bhp electric motor that follows the design of the Alfa Tonale.
- 02 Citroen e-C3:**
An electric supermini with a relatively high ride height that is set to cost under £23,000.
- 03 Hyundai Ioniq 5N:**
Hyundai's first electric hot hatch will have 641 bhp, a 'drift optimiser' and a system that simulates gear shifts.
- 04 MINI Countryman:**
The biggest MINI gets even bigger. The electric variant has a range of over 280 miles, while the petrol range includes a four-wheel-drive Cooper Works option.
- 05 Polestar 4:**
A bold new look for the electric specialist, with few physical controls and no rear window. It's set to sit between the 2 and 3 in terms of size.



- 06 Range Rover EV:**
The first-ever electric Range Rover is based on the award-winning fifth-generation model introduced in 2022.
- 07 Renault 5:**
A famous name in an all-new electric vehicle, with attractive looks and an almost 250-mile range.



- 08 Skoda Kodiaq:**
The second generation of this multi-award-winning large SUV is now even larger and it comes with petrol, diesel and, for the first time, plug-in hybrid options.
- 09 Toyota Land Cruiser:**
The latest version of the iconic 4x4 has a turbocharged 201bhp diesel engine and automatic gearbox – with the first-ever hybrid Land Cruiser following in 2025.
- 10 Volvo EX90:**
Volvo's new electric SUV, with either 402bhp or 510bhp motors, a range over 350 miles and an extensive selection of new technology, including advanced driver assistance.

DriverLine

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

