

Stay cool and drive  
smart this summer

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British summertime brings longer days, weekend getaways, and a chance to soak up some sun. But while the warm weather is great for holiday fun and games, it can also pose some hidden challenges for your car. That's why we've put together our top tips to help you stay safe, avoid unexpected breakdowns, and make the most of every journey.

### Safety

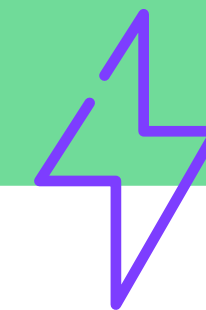


- 1 Even with the windows cracked open, temperatures inside a car can soar within minutes so never leave animals in the vehicle, make regular stops to let them cool off, and always carry plenty of fresh water.
- 2 Hot roads and warm air can make existing tyre damage much worse. Regularly check tread depth and pressure and don't ignore any bulges or cracks as they are often signs of trouble ahead.
- 3 Higher temperatures put additional strain on your cooling system. Check the coolant reservoir frequently, inspect for leaks, and listen for unusual sounds. If in doubt, get it checked by a professional.
- 4 For hay fever sufferers, it's worth knowing that sneezing at 70 mph could cause you to lose vision for up to 100 meters, but please remember to ensure that any medicine you take won't cause drowsiness.
- 5 Even if it doesn't feel that hot, cars can heat up quicker than you might expect, so it's a good idea to keep things like plastic bottles or containers, and especially food and drink, away from direct sunlight.
- 6 Summer means more cyclists, motorcyclists, tractors, and tourists who might be unfamiliar with the roads. Stay alert, avoid overtaking on bends or blind spots, and give vulnerable road users plenty of space.
- 7 Always carry essentials like water, snacks, phone chargers, a sunshade, and a breakdown warning triangle.
- 8 Hot weather and school holidays means congested roads. Try to travel early or later in the day and always check traffic updates and weather forecasts before setting off.

### Electric Vehicles

There are some simple steps you can take to maximise your range in the hot weather:

- 1 Avoid rapid acceleration and harsh breaking.
- 2 Use your car's energy saving settings.
- 3 Cool your car down before setting off to reduce battery strain.
- 4 Try not to carry any unnecessary weight in the car.
- 5 Where possible, park in shaded areas, use a reflective windscreen cover, or invest in a car cover.
- 6 Staying plugged in can help maintain battery temperature.
- 7 Fast charging generates more heat. In extreme temperatures, try to limit rapid charging.

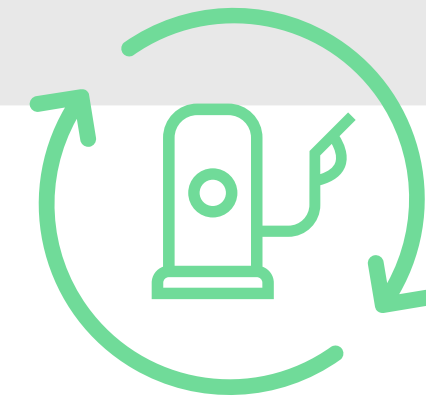






## Fuel

- 1 Whilst it's true that air conditioning can affect fuel economy, open windows make a car less aerodynamic, so try opening your air vents first.
- 2 If you decide to use air conditioning, remember to turn it off once the car has cooled sufficiently – you can always turn it on again.
- 3 If you want to carry luggage on the roof, using a streamlined roof box will help reduce air resistance and improve fuel efficiency.
- 4 If you are staying away from home, remember that using the car as extra storage space once you have arrived is likely to waste precious fuel as you drive around.
- 4 Nothing wastes fuel like stop-start congestion. Use real-time traffic apps or your sat-nav to find quieter routes or off-peak travel times. This will also reduce wear on your engine and brakes.



## Comfort

- 1 Using a windscreen shade and parking under cover can make a real difference to how your car feels when you return.
- 2 Don't forget your sunglasses. Sun glare can severely reduce visibility and puts added strain on your eyes – which can be very tiring during a long journey.
- 3 On returning to your vehicle, open all the doors and let the car cool off before you get in.
- 4 If you have leather or vinyl seats, you'll know that these can get very hot and sticky, so keep them cool with a light blanket while you are out and about.



## Taking your car abroad?

Before planning your trip abroad, it is important to make sure that you have all the necessary paperwork and are fully aware of any country-specific rules and regulations. You should also check that your breakdown cover extends to the country you will be travelling in and that you know the relevant numbers to call in the case of an emergency.

If your car is leased from Novuna Vehicle Solutions, it is a legal requirement to be in possession of a VE103 Vehicle on hire certificate as this confirms that you have Novuna's authority to take the vehicle abroad. There is a fee of £12.00 to obtain the certificate and please allow at least 10 working days prior to travel.

Order your certificate at: [ve103.mynovunavehicle.co.uk](https://ve103.mynovunavehicle.co.uk)

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## Need to know more?

For more handy tips and advice on all aspects of personal or business motoring, take a look at our blog

[NovunaVehicleSolutions.co.uk/news-and-insights](https://NovunaVehicleSolutions.co.uk/news-and-insights)

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