

# Motorists Should Take Care in Hot Weather

**Paul Bulloch gives motorists some sound advice  
on having a summer of trouble free motoring.**





## Motorists Should Take Care in Hot Weather



Paul Bulloch

Much of the UK has been basking in summer sunshine, and whilst the vast majority of people enjoy the uncharacteristic heat, there are a few additional precautions motorists should take to avoid possible problems whilst out on the road...

### Fluid Levels

Ensuring you are properly hydrated in the summer heat is essential to avoiding driver fatigue, and of course possible serious health issues. Make sure you have plenty of water/drink on board before setting off on any prolonged car journey, along with snacks in case of a breakdown or sustained traffic incident.

However, you should also ensure your vehicle fluids are kept up to sufficient levels. Make sure you, or a qualified mechanic have checked brake, clutch, power steering, oil and coolant levels to avoid possible breakdown.

Also ensure your vehicle is regularly serviced, and ensure your service agent has checked for leaking coolant hoses/broken electric cooling fans which could result in overheating of your vehicle.

### Tyre Pressures

You should ensure that your tyres are inflated to the manufacturers recommended level – note that pressures should be adjusted for heavy loads or towing. Its also important that you check for damage/ bulges on tyres as higher summer temperatures heat up tyres and can aggravate existing damage. Damaged tyres should be changed as soon as possible.

Don't forget to check your spare tyre also – or where no spare is available,

that you have appropriate tyre inflation/repair kit on board.

### Keeping Clean

It's a good idea to check your washer fluid levels, and to make sure your windscreen/mirrors are clean to ensure maximum visibility. You should clean your windscreen inside and out to remove smears, which will catch sunlight and impair vision. Using newspaper is great for removing built up traffic film!

Also check your wiper blades – they are usually pretty cheap and simple to replace if worn, and will also help you keep a clear line of sight.

If you suffer from hayfever, and are taking medication, ensure that the medication does not cause drowsiness. There are a number of hayfever solutions in the market which can be taken before driving, and its important you try and minimise the symptoms of hayfever which can lead to distraction and possible accidents.

### Travelling Abroad

If you are taking your vehicle abroad this summer, ensure you have the correct safety items for the country you are travelling to. European Safety Kits are available, which provide for items required for travel to most European countries.

If you have a lease vehicle, ensure that you have a 'Vehicle on-hire Certificate' (VE103), which is available from your leasing company. You should ensure you contact your provider with as much notice as possible before you intend to travel to allow sufficient time to process and post this document out. It's important you travel with this document, to prevent your vehicle from being impounded by authorities.

You should ensure that you have European Breakdown Recovery to cover you for any breakdown situation whilst you are abroad.

Ensure you have adequate insurance which covers your vehicle when travelling abroad – speak to your insurance company if you are unsure.

### Other Safety Tips

Keep your keys safe, and dry. Don't forget to take them out of your pocket before going into the sea!

Take care with fire! Carefully extinguish any cigarette's before disposal – they could cause a fire by the roadside!

For more information about this article contact Paul Bulloch, Managing Director of Concept Vehicle Leasing, a National Vehicle Leasing, finance, maintenance and Fleet Management Provider. You can contact them by calling 0800-043 2050 or visit [www.conceptvehicleleasing.co.uk](http://www.conceptvehicleleasing.co.uk).



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