

FACTSHEET



Windscreen & Glass **Safety**

Ensuring that you have a clear view of the road is important for your safety when driving. Read our guide on to find out more about the importance of checking your windscreen and mirrors to avoid fines and road accidents.

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Windscreen & Glass **Safety Check**

Your windscreen and mirrors are vital for safe driving. Clear visibility helps you react quickly to hazards, avoid collisions and stay compliant with road safety laws. Even minor issues such as chips, condensation or ice can make a big difference.

Condensation and visibility

Moisture inside the vehicle can quickly mist up the windscreen and windows. Driving before it has fully cleared is unsafe and illegal if it restricts your view.

To prevent and remove condensation:

- Make sure air vents and blowers are working correctly.
- Use the air conditioning or demist setting to clear windows before setting off.
- Keep the inside of the glass clean, as dirt attracts moisture.
- Remove any wet clothing or items (like umbrellas) that can increase humidity.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Never start your journey until the windscreen and all windows are completely clear.

Wing mirrors and legal requirements

Your mirrors are just as important as your windscreen for visibility.

By law:

- You must have at least two mirrors – one on the driver's side (offside) and one of the following: the passenger side mirror (nearside) or the interior rear-view mirror.

- All mirrors must be secure, undamaged, and provide a clear view of the road.

Safe driving starts with a clear view

Taking a few minutes to inspect and clear your windscreen and mirrors could prevent an accident, a fine or a failed MOT.

Checking your windscreen

Regular windscreen checks take seconds but can prevent accidents, fines, MOT failures and unnecessary repair costs. Keeping your windscreen clean, clear and damage-free is one of the simplest ways to stay safe on the road.

How serious is a windscreen chip or crack?

A cracked windscreen can obstruct a driver's vision, making it difficult to see approaching traffic and other road hazards. Minor scratches and small chips can also cause problems, making dazzle or glare from sunlight and other vehicle headlights worse.

It's also an essential part of the vehicle's structure, and an incorrectly fitted windscreen could interfere with the performance of the passenger airbag in a car.



DID YOU KNOW:

Frost, ice or snow left on the glass can obscure your vision – this is classed as driving with an obstructed view and can result in a fine or penalty points.

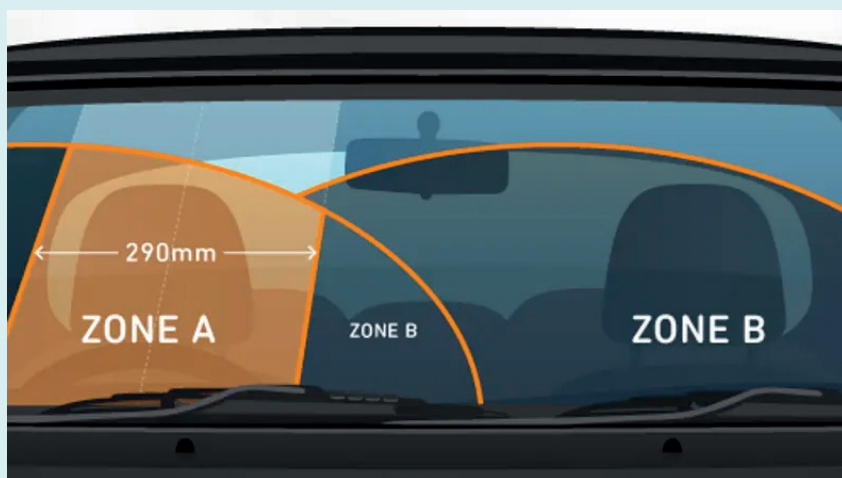
Why should you regularly check your windscreen?

Windscreens are linked to safety systems, e.g. they house camera/sensors for driver support systems such as advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). Due to this, these screens need to be recalibrated upon replacement. Therefore, ensuring chips are dealt with quickly will prevent a full replacement being needed, save time and possibly recover the crack if it's significant.

- **Visibility:** Dirt, chips and cracks can distort your view, especially when driving in bright sunlight or at night.
- **Safety:** The windscreen helps protect you in a collision by preventing objects from entering the cabin and by supporting the roof structure.
- **Prevention:** Spotting a small chip early can often mean a simple repair, avoiding a costly full replacement later.
- **Check:** Always check your windscreen before driving.

What can happen if you don't check your windscreen?

- **Cracks can spread:** A small chip can quickly turn into a large crack, especially when the weather changes or you drive over bumps.
- **MOT failure:** Windscreen damage can cause your vehicle to fail its MOT. Any chip or crack in the driver's line of vision larger than 10mm, or damage elsewhere larger than 40mm, will fail the test.
- **Police fines:** Driving with a damaged windscreen that affects visibility can be considered using a vehicle in a dangerous condition, which may result in a fine of up to £2,500, penalty points, or even prosecution.
- **Reduced safety in a crash:** A weakened windscreen may shatter more easily or affect how airbags deploy, putting you and your passengers at risk.
- **It is a legal requirement:** The law requires you to have a fully functioning windscreen washing system and fluid when driving. Failure to do so could result in a £100 fine and three penalty points for dangerous driving.



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Cold weather and windscreen chips

When temperatures drop, your windscreen expands and contracts.

- Cold glass + warm air (e.g. from your heater or hot water) = rapid temperature change that can cause existing chips to crack suddenly.
- Frost and ice scraping can make small chips worse if too much pressure is applied.

Tips:

- Never pour hot water on a frozen windscreen – use a proper scraper or de-icer instead.
- If you are defrosting your windows, also take time to clean off all external lights to ensure you can see and also be seen.
- If you have an EV, demist/defrost as part of pre-conditioning the vehicle to save range.

What to do if you have spotted a windscreen crack or chip

- 1. Act quickly:** Report it to your fleet team, insurer or book an appointment directly with a reputable glass provider.
- 2. Avoid pressure or stress on the glass:** Try not to slam doors or blast the heater directly onto the chip.
- 3. Get it repaired:** Most small chips can be repaired easily and at no cost through your insurance or fleet provider.

