GROSVENOR

Avoiding fines and charges



Driver's guide

TIPS TO HELP PREVENT UNEXPECTED COSTS

Fines can be a minefield for company car and van drivers.

While you can prevent some fines by driving safely, sticking to the speed limit relevant to your vehicle and not using your mobile phone at the wheel, other fines can catch you out.





PARKING

Parking is the most common type of fine for company car and van drivers.

In 2024 alone, leasing companies received 385,000 parking fines on behalf of their customers.* Fines can be issued by both private parking companies and councils, and the rules often differ. **Here are 5 tips to help you avoid a fine:**

Sources: *Fleet News FN50 2024

1. Check signs:

Not all car parks are the same, which is why it's important to read the parking terms and conditions, such as how long you are permitted to park.

2. Understand the payment method:

Do you need to pay and display a ticket or does the car park use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras for entry and exit? Can you only pay with the correct change or do you need to pay via an app or over the phone? Be careful to input your registration correctly. Also, don't assume you can park somewhere overnight free of charge - even supermarket car parks may have restrictions when the store is closed, as well as during the day.

3. Pay quickly:

Car parks that use ANPR know when you arrive and leave. It's therefore important to pay for your parking as soon as you can. For example, don't sit and make a call or eat a sandwich before you pay, as a delay may incur a fine straight away.

4. Park correctly:

Don't park in a bay for Blue Badge holders, electric vehicle (EV) charging or loading if those situations don't apply to you. Make sure you've parked within the lines and fully within the bay. If you're parking on a street, check that there are no permit restrictions and don't park on the pavement.

5. Don't overstay:

Although councils in England have to give you a 10-minute grace period, it's only voluntary for private parking firms so it's best to be back at your vehicle in time.

DESIGNATED ZONES

Congestion and low emission zones

Cities throughout the UK are increasingly restricting access to certain areas or requiring drivers to pay a charge based on their vehicle's emissions to help tackle air pollution.





London charging zones

There are currently three charging zones in London and it's important to check the rules for your vehicle before driving in them:

Congestion Charge Zone
If you don't pay a crossing charge or toll before your journey, it can be easy to forget to do it afterwards which will result in a fine.

Ultra low Emission Zone (ULEZ)
A £12.50** daily charge for non-compliant vehicles to enter all London boroughs. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, except Christmas Day.

Low Emission Zone (LEZ)
Charge varies for non-compliant vans to enter most of Greater London. Cars are exempt. It operates 24 hours a day, every day of the year.



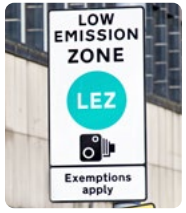
All zones use ANPR to identify your vehicle and offer a short period of time for you to pay the charge to avoid incurring a penalty. Your company may have a pre-pay account so find out before you travel.

Sources: **TfL, charges as of July 2025

Zones outside London

Aside from London's charging zones, you need to be aware of Low Emission Zones (LEZs) in Scotland, the pilot Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ) in the centre of Oxford, and Clean Air Zones (CAZs) in Birmingham, Bristol and other cities. You can find guidance and maps on the .Gov website, along with advice on complying. Link: **Drive in a Clean Air Zone**

Again, your company may have a pre-pay account so find out before you travel.











Other driving restrictions

You also need to watch out for driving restrictions in residential areas such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs). Check your local council's website for details.

CROSSINGS AND TOLL ROADS

If you don't pay a crossing charge or toll at the time of your journey it can be easy to forget to do it afterwards and be hit with a fine.

To avoid this you can set up a pre-pay account so payment is taken automatically. It's worth checking whether your company has this in place for the A282 Dartford Crossing (Dart Charge), the M6 Toll, the Humber Bridge and Mersey Gateway or other toll roads before you travel on them.

Transport for London (TfL) began charging a toll for using the Blackwall and Silvertown tunnels in April 2025 so it's important to remain vigilant as many tolls use ANPR to identify your vehicle, giving you a short period of time after to pay (typically 24 hours).



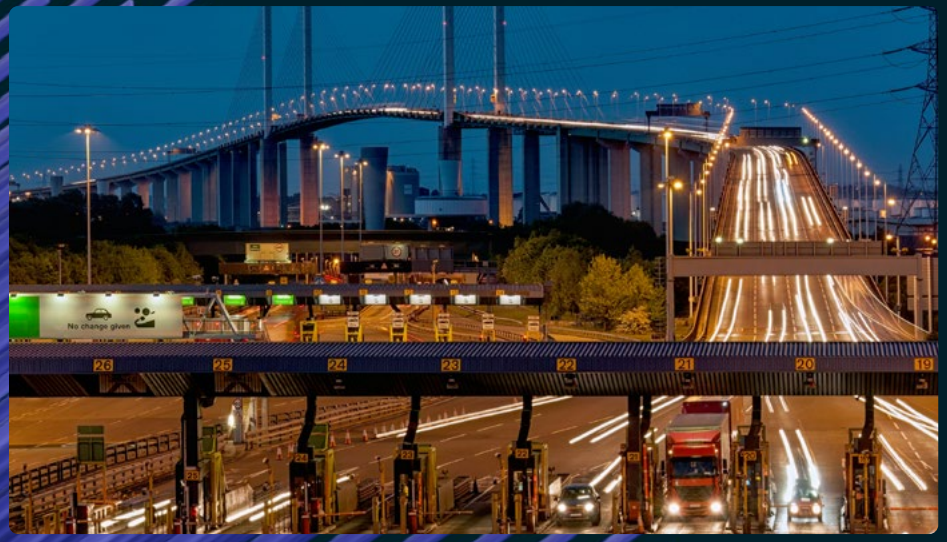
DEDICATED LANES

Take care not to drive in a marked bus lane - many local authorities will fine you up to £70 if you do, and in Greater London it could be up to £160.

You could also be fined for stopping on a Red Route, which is marked by red lines.

Make sure you obey Smart Motorway signs. If you drive in a lane which shows a red X on the overhead gantry or you don't stick to a variable speed limit you could get a £100 fine and three penalty points on your driving licence or worse.

Find out more on the National Highways website: nationalhighways.co.uk



DAILY RENTAL VEHICLES

You should be extra vigilant in daily rental vehicles!

Be careful as most rental providers pay fines upon receipt, add a large admin fee and recharge to the customer. Once payment has been made by the provider, the opportunity for appeal is then lost and authorities can reject or ignore any correspondence received afterwards.

What should I do if I get a fine?



If you get a fine, your company may pay it on your behalf and then recharge you. That's because it's cheaper to pay a fine promptly - it could even be 50% less if paid within 14 days.

If you believe a fine has been wrongly issued it's your responsibility to challenge it, where possible. The appeals process can differ depending on whether you've been fined by a private company or you've received a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) from a local council or TfL, or a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) issued by the police.

To help decide whether it's worth appealing, you could seek guidance from Citizens Advice Bureau
Link here: citizensadvice

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