



THE STRAIGHT FORWARD ROAD TO YOUR NEW CAR

0115 971 3343

Spring Driving Advice

The shortest days of the year are now beginning to disappear as the days begin to lengthen and our thoughts of snow and ice are starting to melt away but don't relax too much, there are still plenty of hazards ready to catch you out as we head towards summer. We have put together a number of hints and tips below to help ensure you don't become a collision statistic.

- Always good practice is to plan your journey well in advance, set out in good time and have a good idea of your route when driving to an unfamiliar area. A high percentage of collisions are caused by drivers rushing especially if on unfamiliar roads
- We have all had plenty of rain over the winter period, but as we expect a bit less rain towards summer it brings its own hazards! Less rain means longer drier spells between showers. When there is a shower the road can become quite slippery due to fuel and rubber deposits put down in the dry spell, especially at junctions, bends and roundabouts. Keep your distance and slow earlier for hazards, bends and junctions.
- It is still not too late to have lots of snow and ice so keep your weather proof gear and a pair of heavy shoes with you in the car for another month, the weather can still change rapidly and a break down or hold up could leave you wet and cold.
- We have had our fill of high winds for most of the country but be aware High winds early in spring can pose a particular problem as lots of trees have been weakened and the ground is very soft. A sudden spell of high winds could easily bring further trees down onto the roads. Take extra care, especially on unlit stretches or road if the wind picks up!
- As the weather starts to improve and there is less likelihood of the roads being gritted, it's a good time to give your vehicle a good wash, polish and spring clean. Include a full tyre (depth and pressure) check and don't forget the wiper blades. Don't forget to wash the bottom of the doors, the door jams and around the boot & bonnet edges as this is where the salt will cause damage over time.
- Spring driving sees an abundance of wild life moving around and therefore a high level of road kill; watch out for deer, badgers and other animals if driving at night in the country.
- The roads always suffer due to the amount of water and frosts, which means the surface breaking up and some deep pot holes appearing. These pot holes can damage tyres, wheels and suspension. Please avoid them whenever possible and if you can't avoid them, slow down before hitting them (try not to be braking when you drive through a pothole).
- Low sun and dazzle can also be a problem this time of year. Make sure your windscreen is clean in the inside as well as outside and don't forget your other windows or mirrors. The clocks go forward in March so although the time you travel might be the same, the sun will not be in the same place and may cause dazzle.