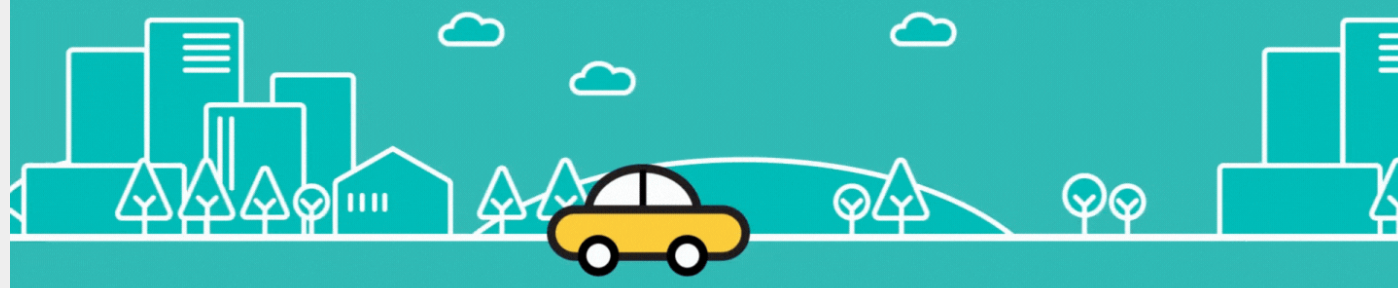


Darwin[®]



Welcome to Darwin's April Newsletter

Hi,

Bank holiday season is just around the corner, and with not one, but two long weekends coming up, many of us will be planning to hit the road.

Before you do, it's worth spending a bit of time checking your car is up to the challenge.

Follow our top tips to prepare for every stage of the journey, and you'll be good to go.



Before you set off

It's always a good idea to give your car the once over before you set off, and one motoring mantra that may be useful is FLOWERS.

FLOWERS stands for Fuel, Lights, Oil, Wipers, Electrics, Rubber and Self.

Here's a quick overview of what FLOWERS involves:

- Fuel - make sure you have enough fuel for your journey and research the best places to refuel (or recharge if you're driving an EV) along the way.
- Lights - check that all the lights are in good working order, including your brake lights and indicators.
- Oil - check your oil level and the various other liquids your car needs (screen wash, oil, water, coolant, power steering, clutch and brake fluid levels) to make sure they're all topped up.
- Wipers - inspect your windscreen wipers. Check the blades have not perished or frayed. If the wipers smear when in use, you should replace them.
- Electrics - check that all the electrics are working as they should and don't be tempted to ignore any dashboard warning lights.
- Rubber - check your tyre pressure (spare included) according to the handbook recommendations and inspect each tyre for wear. Look out for things like cuts in the tread or sidewalls, bulges in the sidewalls, and stones or foreign objects trapped in the tread grooves (which should be removed before you set off).
- Self - how are you feeling? Have you had enough sleep? Are you confident that there isn't any alcohol in your system (perhaps from the night before)? It's important to check that you're in good condition to drive, as well as your car!

On the road

You've checked that you and your car are alright. But what about your passengers? If it's a long journey, make sure you've planned in breaks and pack plenty of water and snacks to keep everyone fuelled and hydrated.

Younger children may appreciate traditional games like I-Spy, or you may want to download some of their favourite movies or TV shows to a tablet and bring their headphones. This will give them a way to pass the time while you concentrate on driving.

When you arrive

The last thing you need after a long drive is the hassle of trying to find somewhere to park. Here are our top tips to help you avoid a costly parking mistake.

- Research parking - if you're heading to a new destination, it's always a good idea to research your parking options in advance. Try to have a couple of places in mind, so if one is full, you can head over to the other.
- Take a deep breath - even with proper planning, finding a space in popular towns and villages over a bank holiday weekend can be challenging. But when panic builds, it's easier to make poor decisions. Take a deep breath and try to remain calm. It's better to spend a little longer finding a safe and appropriate spot than to risk a hefty fine.
- Download the parking apps - is it just us, or does every car park seem to require a different app? Downloading the main ones in advance can help avoid added frustration when you arrive. And don't forget to make sure your card details are up to date.
- Take photos - if you do receive a parking ticket and you think it may have been issued unfairly, then you'll need evidence to contest the fine. Take photos of your car, including where it's parked and any parking signs in the area. Make sure the photos are time-stamped to make your case easier.
- Pay promptly - if you're willing to accept the fine then it's important to read your ticket carefully and pay before the deadline. You may even receive an incentive, such as a discount, for paying quickly.

Follow our tips and you'll be all set for a safe, smooth and stress-free bank holiday road trip. Happy travelling!

Tell us what you think

We'd love to hear your thoughts about our newsletter. Add your rating and comments below.



My Account Area

As a customer of Darwin, you have your own personal account area where all your documents and details are stored.

[Login Now](#)

This is the quickest way to check your details and make changes like adding a driver or updating your personal details.

With best wishes,

The Darwin Team

Darwin[®] insurance policies are underwritten by U K Insurance Limited and arranged and administered by IGO4 Limited. Registered office: Embankment West Tower, 101 Cathedral Approach, Manchester, M3 7FB. Registered in England and Wales no. 5095154. IGO4 Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Registration Number 536726. The Financial Services Register can be accessed through www.fca.org.uk. Darwin[®] is a registered trade mark of U K Insurance Limited.

You are receiving these emails on behalf of Darwin Insurance as we believe you may be interested in receiving useful information from us. If you would prefer not to receive any further newsletters from Darwin, please [click here](#).

Privacy Promise

We want you to feel confident about the privacy of your personal information and assure you that all the details we hold about you are used in line with our [Privacy Policy](#). In order to understand behaviour and personalise some content in this email, we use a tiny, transparent image at the bottom of this email as a tracking method. You can prevent this in any future communications from this sender by turning off images in the email itself.