

THE DOs AND DON'Ts

— OF WINDSCREEN DEFROSTING —

Dedicating enough time in the morning to de-icing your car can go a long way to ensuring you are driving safely on the roads.

Getting up just 5-10 minutes earlier to defrost your windscreen will prevent you from picking up a hefty fine and points on your licence, and using the correct techniques will ensure your windscreen surface remains damage-free.

✓ DOs



✓ Start your car and turn on the heater

Switch the heater on at a cool setting and direct at the windscreen.

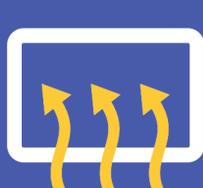
As the windscreen starts to defrost, slowly increase the temperature so it heats up gradually.

TIP!

Turning the heater on full blast straight away raises the humidity levels inside the vehicle, so steadily increasing the temperature will prevent the windscreen from misting or fogging up.

✓ Use your air con in conjunction with your heater

This will keep the atmosphere dry and prevent condensation.



✓ Switch on the demist setting

Sit back, relax and wait for the windscreen to warm up and defrost.

✓ Open windows

If you do not have an air conditioning or demist setting, opening the windows will help to reduce water vapour inside your car and clear the screen faster.



✓ Use specialist de-icing sprays or a jug of warm water to melt the ice

Ensure the water is warm - not boiling - and pour well to avoid refreezing.

✓ Use a plastic ice-scraper

A plastic scraper will dislodge patches of frost, snow and ice - removing them from the windscreen without the risk of scratching the glass.



✗ DON'Ts



✗ Don't use a hairdryer or portable heater

These methods create instant heat which can cause the windscreen to fracture and crack.

✗ Don't pour boiling water over the glass

Similarly, the high temperature impact from boiling water can cause a frozen windscreen to crack and become damaged.



✗ Don't use unconventional de-icing tools

Acting in a hurry can cause drivers to occasionally use rather unconventional methods to de-ice their windscreen. While this may seem tempting, credit cards, keys, metal scrapers and CD cases can scratch your windscreen surface.

You may also break the item itself in the process!

✗ Don't drive with only a small patch of the windscreen clear

Otherwise known as 'porthole vision', driving with only a small area of the windscreen visible can cause motorists to face a fine of up to £100 and three penalty points on their licence.



✗ Don't leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running

When defrosting your windscreen, you should not leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running as it is considered a traffic offence; motorists can receive a fixed penalty notice of £20.

Leaving your vehicle to defrost with the engine on while you pop back inside the house also leaves it readily available to thieves, so make sure you stay with the car at all times.



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