

DRIVING ADVISORY: DRIVING IN SPRING

Spring has sprung, and that means brighter mornings and evenings, warmer temperatures and more activity. So while drivers may think the tougher conditions of the Winter have finally passed, there are still plenty of unique challenges on the road to be aware of this season.



It's not summer weather yet

Just because the sun is out, don't assume the roads are dry or there's plenty of grip. Overnight temperatures can plummet meaning there are still icy patches even when it's bright. These are often called 'microclimates', and so look out for shaded areas and what looks like standing water, which could be early morning ice.

Don't get shown up by showers too: heavy spring rain can make roads slick. Slow down during and after rain, avoid sudden movements, and try to drive in the tyre tracks of vehicles ahead to improve traction.



Watch out for damp or icy 'microclimates' on the road



Prepare for glare in low sun conditions



Beware as winter can often leave behind potholes



Get ready for busier roads as traffic numbers increase



Check tyre pressure and tread

Temperature changes can affect tyre pressure. Make sure your tyres are properly inflated and after a winter of mud and mess, spring is a good time to check tread depth (20mm is a level you don't want drop below) and tyre condition for damage or unusual wear – although we recommend doing this every week, no matter what the season.

RED has a partnership with TyreSafe – find out much more about tyre safety [here](#).

Watch for wildlife waking up

After a Winter hunkering down, animals get more active in the Spring and so the chances of hitting one and causing damage to your vehicle increases. Deer are a particular menace as they move around looking for more food.

As vegetation grows, cover starts to thicken, so it's harder to spot animals on the verges and in hedges and woods until they venture out onto the road, often at the last second. Be aware that this could happen and adjust your speed accordingly.





Everybody is a fitness fanatic

While there are plenty of hardened individuals cycling, running and walking during the Winter, in Spring the numbers bloom noticeably. Be aware of those roads that previously were deserted might now be home to far more people.

Stay extra cautious near parks, schools, and residential areas.



Pothole peril

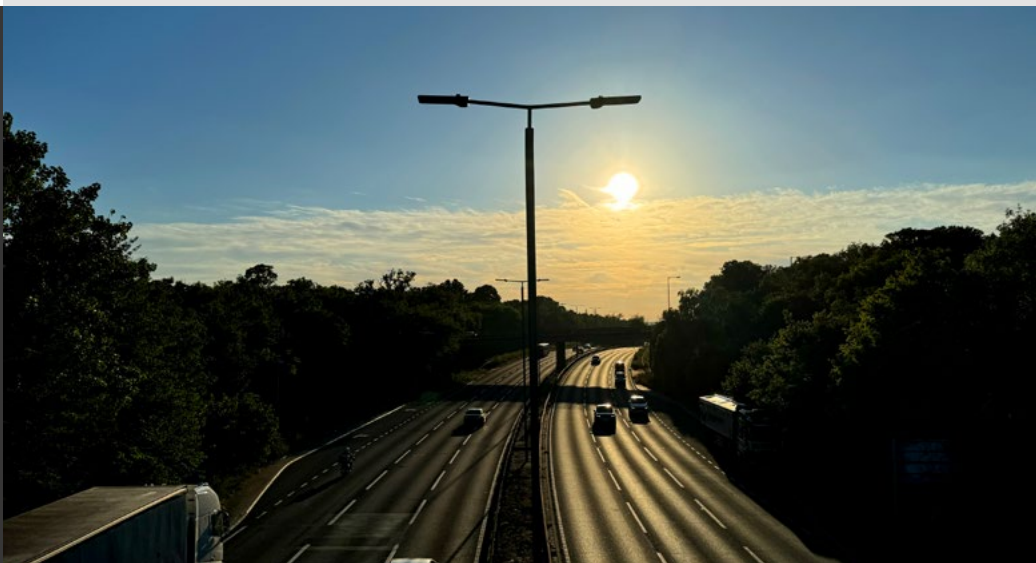
Winter often leaves behind potholes. Hitting one at high speed can damage your suspension or tyres, so keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead so you can spot, and avoid, potholes in time.



Plan for traffic

The advent of Spring means the return of bank holidays, holiday periods and major events, which means more traffic on the roads at specific times as people change their routines.

For working drivers who've got used to using certain routes in particular periods, they need to keep an eye out for when there could be sudden big increases in traffic numbers, so they can avoid getting caught up in public congestion.



Here comes the sun

While the sun has a lot more power as Spring takes hold, it also sits low in the sky in mornings and evenings and can cause a lot of glare, especially if there's rain or ice about so ensure your windscreen is clean inside and out to ensure maximum visibility.

It pays to be ready, with sunglasses handy, but don't forget: if you wear prescription glasses, make sure you have prescription lenses in your sunnies too...

RED Advisories

RED has produced a series of advisory leaflets covering everything from towing to fatigue. To download a copy, click [here](#)



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