

HOW TO AVOID FINES AND PENALTY CHARGES



We've pulled together some top tips to help you avoid the most common fines.



Parking



Research where you're going to park before you set off. Leave plenty of time for your journey and don't rush!



Always park within the designated parking bays. Don't park in spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders, residents or motorcycles



Always check the signs to see how long you can park for, make sure you've paid for enough parking time and check how to top up remotely if you can.

If you receive a parking fine, here's how to appeal.

[A penalty charge notice](#)

[A private parking charge](#)



Mobile phones

It's illegal to hold a phone or sat nav while driving or riding a motorcycle.

The **law** still applies to you if you're:

- stopped at traffic lights
- queuing in traffic
- supervising a learner driver
- and potentially could apply if a mobile is used in a drive thru

To avoid a £200 fine and six points on your licence, don't pick up your phone.



Smart motorways

Don't ignore lane closures on smart motorways. If you drive in a motorway lane marked with a **Red X**, you can expect to receive an **automatic £100 fine and three penalty points**.

Keep an eye out for the variable speed limits, as they change depending on the volume of traffic and road related incidences. Otherwise you may get a speeding ticket.



Speeding



It might sound obvious, but the easiest and safest way to avoid speeding fines is to stick to the speed limit



Dedicated sat navs, sat nav apps and some on-board car computers can alert you when you break the speed limit, prompting you to slow down and stay safe.

For further information check out our [Manage Your Speed Guide](#)



Toll and congestion/ULEZ charges



London Congestion Charge/ULEZ:

- Use the postcode checker below to check if your journey takes you into the zone [PostCode Zone Check](#)
- Pay in advance to save on costs and penalties at [Pay the Charge](#)
- Auto Pay by setting up an account at [Auto Pay](#)
- Check out if your can register for a [discount or exemption](#)



Dartford Crossing Charge:

To pay the Dart Charge, and save money, set up a prepaid account or pay the charge by midnight the day after you cross [here](#)



Mersey Gateway Bridge Charge:

To pay the bridge charge, and save money, you can set up a prepaid account or pay the charge by midnight the after you cross [here](#)

