

Making Rental Work For Your Small Business

How short-term vehicle rental could deliver a range of benefits for your business.

For most SMEs, flexibility is the key to meeting everyday business challenges. And flexibility is also crucial when it comes to running your business vehicles – in particular for short-term vehicle rental.

“An increasing number of businesses are also turning to flexible rental”

Most businesses will have occasional situations where they need a car or van on a short-term basis, for example to cover for vehicle downtime or to fulfil a particular contract without being locked into long-term leasing deals.

Using short-term rental can also provide a range of additional benefits to your business. Hiring vehicles on an adhoc basis can reduce your costs, slash fleet emissions and play a key role in helping you to meet duty of care requirements for employees driving on company business.

However, it's important to consider your rental options carefully to ensure you're maximising the benefits and minimising the costs to your business.

The first key consideration is finding the right rental product. Traditionally many businesses have opted for daily rental, which covers 1-28 day hire periods and provides a reliable solution. However, an increasing number of businesses are also turning to flexible rental, such as Lombard Vehicle Solutions' PoolFleet Solutions, which can be used to bridge the gap between daily rental and contract hire.



But there are other areas that small businesses must consider when it comes to short-term rental to ensure that they are prepared for every eventuality. These include choosing the most efficient vehicle for the job – a good rental partner will work with you here to help you save money on rental and fuel costs whilst also reducing emissions.

You also need to explore the options for refuelling the vehicle. Although ticking the box to return the vehicle empty may seem like the easiest choice, it's also likely to be the most expensive one. If the driver needs to return with a full tank, they should check where the nearest petrol station is to the vehicle drop-off location.

And it is also vital to check the small print to make sure there's no nasty surprises – such as delivery and collection; Road Fund licence; excess mileage; collision; theft and loss damage waivers, and VAT and insurance.

It's also important to ask your rental partner about what damages are covered by the agreement, and the extent of your financial liability for the cost of repairs, as some types of damage may not be covered. And it's worth checking with your rental provider on their loss of use charges.

The driver also needs to check the rental car carefully being driving off to make sure that the car hire company has already documented all damage, even tiny scratches. They also need to know when and where they can return the vehicle to ensure no extra charges are incurred. And you should also check all hire charges afterwards for any unauthorised extras.

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Finally it's also important to carefully consider your choice of rental provider to ensure that you are working with a company that can offer you a partnership approach to meet your requirements. For example at Lombard Vehicle Solutions, we can offer a number of different rental products through a national network of rental providers to provide you with excellent quality service at highly competitive rates.

If you would like to find out more about what Lombard Vehicle Solutions could do for you, or would like to see our vehicle special offers, please click [here](#).

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