

Keeping winter costs under control

How to avoid expensive fleet bills during the cold months.

We may have enjoyed an unseasonably warm autumn this year, but don't let that lull you into a false sense of security when it comes to the challenges of winter driving. Taking a few simple precautions can protect your business from additional fleet costs resulting from unnecessary delays or avoidable vehicle damage. Read on to find out more about keeping drivers safe and your business moving during the months ahead.

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When the temperatures plummet to below freezing, ice and snow are the driving hazards that everyone dreads. Stopping distances are a whopping 10 times longer so caution isn't just advisable, it's imperative if an accident is to be avoided. Some fleet management providers such as Lombard Vehicle Solutions, provide free winter tyre checks for their customers. This is a good way to prepare for the more challenging conditions ahead so it's worth checking with your fleet provider so you don't miss out.

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sonal winter check of all your vehicles is a good idea and needn't cost too much. One key item to cover is the battery in each vehicle as, according to the AA, these are the most common reason for winter breakdowns. If any of the batteries in your fleet are more than five years old, it's worth getting them checked as they could cause problems when the temperature drops. Unplanned failures are not only inconvenient, they can cost your business money in missed appointments or deliveries too.

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One adverse weather problem that has hit the headlines over the last few winters is flooding. If there is a flood warning issued, make sure everyone is aware that just an eggcup of water can severely damage the engine if it is ingested via the air intake (usually found low down on the front of the vehicle). Driving through standing water at any more than a slow crawl is risky as well as inconsiderate towards other road us-

ers – if splashed it can mean a fine and up to nine penalty points.

Remind your drivers of their responsibilities too. Driving in wet conditions means that lights and number plates get dirty very quickly; if they are obscured then you're risking a fine or an accident. Encourage your drivers to check and wipe after every journey to be on the safe side.

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Don't forget the AA offers excellent, practical advice for all drivers on how to cope with heavy rain, high winds and ice and snow. Let them know there's useful advice [here](#). It's a useful read this time of year, even for the most experienced drivers.

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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