



Slowdown in Spring showers

Drivers are being urged to take care on the roads if they get caught in a sudden Spring shower. The motoring experts at LeaseVan.co.uk have put together their top tips for driving in wet conditions during Spring.

Tim Alcock from LeaseVan.co.uk said: "Drivers always need to be cautious of changing weather conditions throughout the year but during Spring, heavy showers can pose a big risk. If drivers get caught out, top priority is to slow down, leave plenty of stopping room and make sure the car windscreen is kept mist free to help with visibility. Visibility can be quickly reduced during a sudden downpour and if there's somewhere safe to pull over and wait out the shower, then it's often worth doing. Wipers can struggle to keep up with heavy rain. Drivers also need to be mindful of other road users, the risks caused by flooded routes and excess surface water."

<https://www.leasevan.co.uk/>

The Paper Industry Technical Association (PITA) is an independent organisation which operates for the general benefit of its members – both individual and corporate – dedicated to promoting and improving the technical and scientific knowledge of those working in the UK pulp and paper industry. Formed in 1960, it serves the Industry, both manufacturers and suppliers, by providing a forum for members to meet and network; it organises visits, conferences and training seminars that cover all aspects of papermaking science. It also publishes the prestigious journal *Paper Technology International* and the *PITA Annual Review*, both sent free to members, and a range of other technical publications which include conference proceedings and the acclaimed *Essential Guide to Aqueous Coating*.



Here are LeaseVan.co.uk 's tips for driving in Spring showers.

1. Vehicle maintenance

Check your tyres and make sure they're properly inflated and have good tread to grip on slippery road surfaces.

2. Stopping distance

It takes longer to stop when the roads are wet and slippery. Allow at least double the usual separation distance between you and the car in front.

3. Slow down

Keep your speed down when driving in showers. Wipers struggle to keep up in a heavy downpour so your visibility will be reduced. Drive slower and you'll have more time to react to hazards.

4. Put your lights on

Use dipped headlights so other road users can see you.

5. Stop

If the shower is really heavy and visibility is poor, pull over somewhere safe and wait out the rain.

6. Flooded roads

If the Spring showers are heavy, you may find yourself on flooded roads. If it looks too deep stop, turn round in a safe place and find an alternative route.

7. Aquaplaning

This happens when your tyres lose traction from the road. Roads with lots of surface water pose the biggest risk. Reducing your speed will help.

8. Pedestrians and cyclists

Be mindful of other people on the road, particularly cyclists and pedestrians. If you splash a pedestrian, you could face a fine of anything from £100 to £5,000.

9. Steamed up car

Make sure any heat is going straight on to your windscreen to stop it getting misted up and to keep visibility good.