



TOP TEN TIPS FOR VAN DRIVERS

How to save money and improve efficiency.

1 VEHICLE SELECTION

Consider what you will use the vehicle for, what weight or payload you need to carry, load length, width or volume as necessary. If a smaller van can meet these needs, it will be cheaper than a larger vehicle which is not fully utilised.

2 FUEL MATTERS

Compare the miles per gallon figures of similar sized vans to identify the most economical. In reality, it is difficult to replicate these figures in everyday driving but they do provide a guide with tests conducted under controlled standards. A vehicle with a higher mpg figure may cost more initially but over time you will benefit from reduced fuel consumption. Consider whether petrol, diesel or electric options are most appropriate.

3 ADDITIONAL FEATURES

It's worth considering any additional features which will help save even more fuel. A good example would be a speed limiter which can be set at 70mph to reduce the chance of speeding. If the van does not use fast roads, often the limited speed can be lowered to 60mph and typically save another 10% fuel consumption.

4 DRIVER INVESTMENT

The biggest influence on the vehicle, fuel and maintenance costs will be the driver and their driving style. It could be cost effective to invest in driver training or install telematics to monitor how the van is being driven.

5 SPECIALIST CONVERSIONS

When you have chosen your van, you may need to adapt it or add equipment for your business requirements. Typically, this could be a side or rear step, towbar, roof rack or internal load area conversion. All of these options must be correctly specified and fitted. By using a specialist converter, this will ensure they have the knowledge and capability to support your needs.

6 RACKING

It can be worthwhile investing in a racking solution to provide order and maximise the load space available. A quality metal racking solution will be crash tested for safety and can be easily altered or reused when the van is replaced. A full height bulkhead should also be fitted for safety and to prevent any of the load entering the cab.

7 TOOL STORAGE

Well designed racking will provide easily accessible areas for frequently used tools and equipment. Shelving, lockers and drawers with trays can be used to hold spare parts or products safely. The shelving ends can accommodate items needed in an emergency such as first aid kits, fire extinguisher, eyewash station and protective equipment.

8 ELECTRICAL WORK

A number of electrical modifications can be fitted to make the vehicle more productive. These range from internal and external lighting, beacons, heated hand wash units and small tool charging inverters to full onboard electric power generating equipment.

9 SECURE LOAD

Whatever you carry in the vehicle, it must be properly secured to prevent damage to the load, the vehicle or become a danger to the driver or the public. Always take a few minutes to secure boxes or clamp a ladder properly as this will help avoid accident or injury.

10 DISTRIBUTE LOAD

Load the vehicle carefully in order to distribute weight between the axles and avoid overloading. This is a legal requirement as incorrect load distribution will affect the vehicle handling and cause uneven wear to the tyres and suspension.

Lex Autolease employ a team of Specialist Commercial Vehicle Engineers who can be contacted to discuss your requirements.

For further information please contact your Lex Autolease Relationship Manager or

call: **0844 824 0736** and speak to the Driver support team