



Damaged Windscreen

Read our guide to find out more information about the risks and rules of driving with a damaged windscreen.

The windscreen is an important safety component of your vehicle, so if you have a damaged windscreen it can be hazardous to you and other road users. Therefore, it is important to know the rules and risks of driving with a damaged windscreen.

In this guide, we want to provide you with some information about the risks, rules and what to do if your windscreen is damaged.

Risks

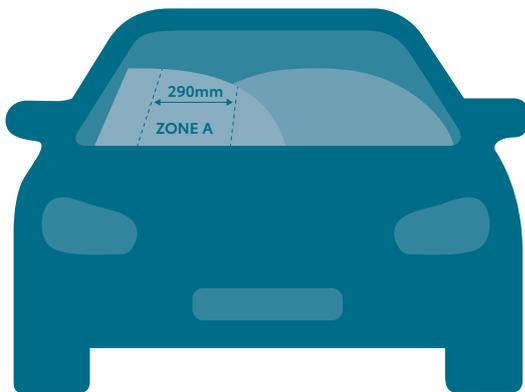
It is necessary to keep the windscreen of your vehicle in good condition, as even a minor chip can have negative effects on the overall structure. If left ignored, a chip can quickly turn into a crack, which can be dangerous. For example if there is a crack on the windscreen, during an accident the performance of the airbag may be interfered, or if the vehicle rolls over, the roof is more likely to cave.

Damaged windscreen can compromise visibility, which may affect the safety of you and other road users. With this in mind, it is also vital to keep the wipers working and windscreen washer fluid topped up – if there is no fluid in the pump, it can corrode and stop working.

Rules

Driving with a damaged windscreen can obscure the view – which is considered as an offence, as drivers should have a full, clear view of the road ahead. This being said, if your windscreen is damaged, you may get a fine and 3 points on your driving licence, if caught.

Furthermore, a crack on the windscreen can result in failing your MOT, if the damage is 40mm in size. Please note, if the crack is located on the windscreen zone A (see image below), a single damaged area needs to be contained within 10mm, otherwise it will result in a fail.



- Zone A: it is a vertical area 290mm wide, centred on the steering wheel and contained within the swept area of the windscreen (this area is 350mm wide on vehicles over 3.5 tonnes).
- Zone B: it is the remainder of the swept area of the windscreen.

Stickers or other obstructions on windscreen

In Zone A, a sticker or other obstructions shall not encroach more than 10mm; in Zone B – 40mm.

What to do if your windscreen is damaged

If you notice even a minor damage on your windscreen, don't ignore it. If chip is left unrepaired, it can spread across the windscreen.

A repair is cheaper and quicker than a windscreen replacement, get any chips sorted as soon as you notice them.

Check your insurance policy, as your windscreen may be covered. If this is the case, you will pay a smaller excess and your insurer will provide you with the necessary information and whom to contact for repairs.