



Dartford Crossing Charge

If you want to cross the Thames using the Dartford Tunnel or Queen Elizabeth II Bridge, you will need to pay the Dartford Crossing Charge. Read our guide to ensure you avoid any non or late payment fines.

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Motorists who cross the Thames using the Dartford Tunnel or Queen Elizabeth II Bridge need to pay the Dartford Crossing Charge. To speed up traffic and reduce congestion, ticket booths were removed from the Dartford Crossing in 2014 and the remote 'Dart Charge' payment method was introduced.

The system uses Automatic Numberplate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to identify who needs to pay and payment is required for each trip both northbound and southbound.

With the exception of motorcyclists, the owner of any vehicle using the Dartford toll crossing needs to pay. You have until midnight the day after you made the crossing to pay the charge.

When does the Dart Charge apply?

The Dart Charge applies between **6am and 10pm**, with every vehicle required to pay. The exact fee varies depending on the type of vehicle being driven.

It's free to make the Thames crossing using the Dartford Tunnel or Queen Elizabeth II Bridge between **10pm and 6am**.

The same fees apply every day, including at weekends and on bank holidays. You'll also need to pay the same charge each time you cross, so a return journey in a car (with no Dart Charge account) costs £5. You can make both payments at the same time.

How much does the Dart Charge cost?

How much you pay to cross depends on the type of vehicle you're driving and if you already have an account.

Cars and motorcycles

Vehicle class	Type of vehicle	One-off payment	If you have an account
A	Motorcycles, mopeds and quad bikes	Free	Free
B	Cars (including trailers), motorhomes and any minibuses that have 9 or less seats (including the driver's seat)	£2.50	£2.00

Buses, coaches, vans and other goods vehicles

Vehicle class	Type of vehicle	One-off payment	If you have an account
C	Vehicles with 2 axles	£3.00	£2.63
D	Vehicles with more than 2 axles	£6.00	£5.19

How do I pay the Dartford Crossing?

The payment method for the Dartford Crossing is similar to that for the London Congestion Charge. Payment can be taken:

- Online at www.gov.uk/pay-dartford-crossing-charge
- By phone on 0300 300 0120

How long do I have to pay the crossing charge?

When you use the crossing, you have until midnight the day after you cross to pay the toll. Payments can also be made online up to a year before making the crossing.

Dartford Crossing late payment fine

If you forget to pay the Dart Charge on time, you'll get a £70 fine, which reduces to £35 if paid within a fortnight – although if you fail to pay within 28 days, it goes up to £105.

This fine applies to each individual crossing, so if you make a return trip and forget to pay for both journeys, you could be liable for a total fine of £210.

If you think a penalty charge notice (PCN) is wrong, you may be able to make a Dart Charge appeal to an independent tribunal. However, you'll need to challenge the ticket first by making a 'representation' with Dart Charge within 28 days.

When making a representation, you must:

- Explain your reasons for challenging the PCN in as much detail as you can
- Provide copies of any evidence or documents that support your challenge

If your challenge is rejected you will receive a 'notice of rejection' and you'll have a further 28 days to pay the fine or make a Dart Charge appeal to an independent tribunal.

While we endeavour to provide relevant and useful information, we cannot guarantee its validity or completeness due to the potential for changes and updates beyond our control. Please check the gov.uk website for any updates.