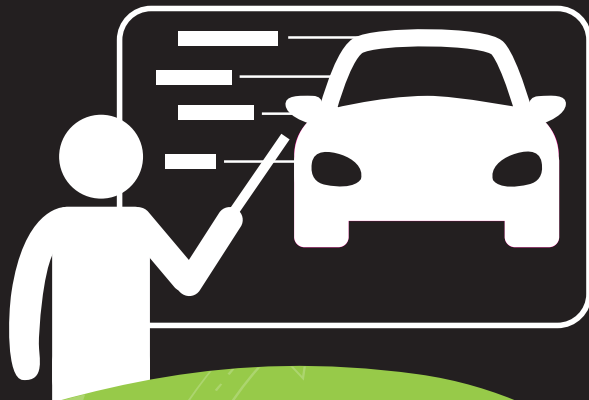


# 20 Driving Habits you'd never know are ILLEGAL



## THE ROAD LAWS YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN BREAKING WITHOUT EVEN REALISING

### SLEEPING IN YOUR VEHICLE WHILST DRUNK, EVEN WITH THE IGNITION OFF

Even if you think you're being sensible, don't take the risk. You may not have your engine running, but getting caught whilst intoxicated in your vehicles could leave you with having to prove you had no intentions of driving. Play it safe and get a taxi home, a hotel for the night or even stay on a friend's couch to avoid 10 points or a fine.



### PLAYING MUSIC THAT'S TOO LOUD

Blasting distressing, annoying or abusive music from your vehicle with the windows down can carry a hefty price. You may be enjoying yourself with an in-car-karaoke but if you ignore a Police Officer who asks you to keep it down, your vehicle could potentially be seized.



### BEEPING YOUR HORN FOR THE WRONG REASONS

Other than to alert other road users of your presence, there is no other need to beep your horn. Whilst traffic jams, busy roundabouts or slow pedestrians could cause a slight delay in your journey, sounding your horn whilst stationary can carry a £30 fine.



### FLASHING YOUR LIGHTS TO WARN OTHER DRIVERS OF SPEED CAMERAS

You may think you're acting as the friendly neighbourhood driver-man, but in UK road safety law, flashing your lights directly at an oncoming vehicle is a dangerous move. It also wouldn't stop the other driver from speeding up again afterwards, and could land you with a £30 fine minimum.



### BEING A MIDDLE LANE HOG

The basic rule of motorway driving is to stick to the left apart from when you're overtaking. Providing you're travelling at a safe speed, you're free to switch lanes to manoeuvre around other vehicles, but hogging the middle lane even when it's clear on the left could see a £100 fine and 3 points come your way.



### GOING TOO FAR WITH THE 10% OVER SPEEDING RULE

In 2013, The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) issued revised speed enforcement policy guidance which suggests that enforcement will normally occur when a driver exceeds the speed limit by a particular margin. Where this margin is normally 10% over the speed limit plus 2 mph, police officers are able to issue either a fixed penalty notice or request for the driver to attend a speed awareness course if they're eligible.



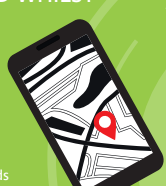
### DRIVING TOO SLOW

Whilst many of us are aware of the dangers of driving too fast, some motorists don't see the harm in driving too slow. Driving consistently under the speed limit can anger other road users and encourage them to try and overtake. It only takes one vehicle to pull out at the last minute for an oncoming vehicle to impact and cause an accident. It's not worth the 9 points and it's never worth a life.



### NOT ATTACHING YOUR PHONE TO A STAND WHILST USING THE SATNAV

Although some vehicles come with built in satnavs, many motorists still opt for Google maps, but if you get caught handling your mobile phone even if it's to find your way, a £200 fine and up to 6 points could come your way. Phone car stands generally cost less than £20, investing in one could not only save you from penalties but also ensure both hands are always on the wheel.



### EATING, DRINKING DOING YOUR MAKEUP AND CHANGING MUSIC

If your hands are busy unwrapping your lunch or you're looking in your mirror at your eye makeup, your concentration is never going to be 100% on the road. You may only be looking away for a few seconds, but those seconds mean you're carelessly driving. Fancy 3-9 points and a potential £100 fine? Park up somewhere safe, then continue your journey afterwards.



### LETTING YOUR PASSENGER HOLD THEIR BABY WHILST YOU'RE DRIVING

Even if your passenger insists, the driver is always responsible for ensuring everyone in the vehicle is safely secured for the journey. Investing in a sturdy child seat is a must for newborns, so don't let that go to waste when the other option is a £100 fine.



### NOT TURNING YOUR LIGHTS ON IN THE DARK

No matter how many carrots you eat, we all struggle to see in the dark, especially on rural country roads and unlit motorway stretches. Don't forget to switch your lights on when it gets dark to avoid not only a £50 fine, but a collision with other road users.



### HAVING DIRT ON YOUR REG

Mud and grime is inevitable when we're driving daily, but if this builds up to the point where your registration plate can't be read, this could result in a £100 fine.



### NOT CLEARING SNOW FROM YOUR ROOF

You'd never drive with luggage unsecured on your roof, so why would you drive with snow on it? You may forget or not even think to de-ice your roof in the morning, but if you take a motorway and this flies off into the car behind you, this could potentially cause some serious damage or even an accident, not to mention a £60 fine and 3 points.



### PAYING FOR FOOD AT A DRIVE-THROUGH WITH YOUR PHONE

Using cash, card or contactless card is absolutely fine, but using your mobile phone Tap to Pay feature is not. At the end of the day you're still in control of a vehicle, and the UK law does not permit the use of a mobile phone even when stationary. Would you rather a Big Mac or a £200 fine and up to 6 points?



### GETTING PAID FOR GIVING SOMEONE A LIFT

Taking a bit of funds from your friend or colleague for petrol is fine, but actively making a profit without having the proper licencing or paperwork is not. The fines for this can be a staggering £5,000 and 6 points!



### TAKING A REST BREAK ON THE HARD SHOULDER

Although it's encouraged to stop for regular breaks whilst on long journeys, this does not mean park up on the hard shoulder for a nap. Pull into a service station or a café where you can; there could be other motorists who need the hard shoulder for serious reasons. This one carries a £100 fine and 3 points.



### DRIVING THROUGH A PUDDLE TO SPLASH A PEDESTRIAN

Where you can, always try to avoid big puddles so not to splash passers-by. Whilst some of us loved playing in the rain when we were children, it's no fun getting unnecessarily splashed when you're on your way to work. 3 points heading your way.



### SWEARING OR GIVING RUDE GESTURES

Disorderly behaviour laws still apply when you're behind the wheel. Don't take your anger out on other road users, you could receive a fine for up to 75% of your weekly income!



### PARKING ON A PAVEMENT

In London and some parts of England it's actually against the law to drive onto the pavement. This carries a £70 fine, but does leave us asking: how does anyone park there?



### PARKING ON A SINGLE YELLOW LINE

1 minute, 2 minutes, 5, 10, even if you're just nipping to the shop that's no excuse to invent your own parking space. Getting caught could mean you'd receive a £130 fine.



#### Sources:

- <https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/road-traffic-offences-guidance-fixed-penalty-notice>
- <https://northyorkshire.police.uk/news/five-myths-about-speeding/>
- <https://www.racfoundation.org/motoring-faqs/enforcement#a2>
- <https://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/legal/speed-limits/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/penalty-points-fines-bans>

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