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Drivers warned about hidden heatwave dangers

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(Photograph © Kim Henson).

Motoring expert reveals the lesser-known ways hot weather can damage vehicles, affect drivers and put passengers at risk.

GM Direct Hire (<https://gmdirecthire.co.uk/>) tells us...

As temperatures climb across the UK, drivers are being warned that heatwaves can pose far more risks than simply making journeys uncomfortable.



While most motorists know not to leave children or pets inside vehicles, a motoring expert says many are unaware of the hidden dangers that extreme heat can create for their cars, passengers and even everyday items left inside.

Majid Ismailzada, Director at [GM Direct Hire](#), is urging drivers to take extra precautions during periods of hot weather after seeing a rise in heat-related vehicle issues during the summer months.

“Most people don’t realise just how much heat can affect both vehicles and drivers,” says Majid.

On a warm day, the temperature inside a parked car can easily exceed 50°C. At those temperatures, you’re not just dealing with discomfort.

You’re creating conditions that can affect electronics, vehicle performance, tyre safety and even the effectiveness of medications.”

The Hidden Heatwave Risks Drivers Often Overlook

Tyres May Be More Vulnerable Than You Think

Hot weather causes air inside tyres to expand, increasing pressure.

“Many drivers assume tyre problems only happen during winter, but heat can be equally problematic.

If your tyres are already overinflated, rising temperatures can increase wear, reduce grip and potentially contribute to blowouts on long journeys.”



Mobile Phones Can Overheat And Shut Down

Drivers relying on smartphones for navigation could face unexpected problems.

“Leaving a phone on a dashboard in direct sunlight can cause it to overheat and temporarily shut down. If you’re travelling somewhere unfamiliar, losing your navigation system halfway through a journey can quickly become stressful.”

Medication Can Be Damaged By Heat

Many motorists leave medication in handbags, gloveboxes or centre consoles without considering temperature exposure.

“Some medications are designed to be stored below room temperature. Prolonged exposure to excessive heat can affect their effectiveness, which is something many people simply don’t think about.”

Dashcams And Phone Mounts Can Fail

Heat can soften adhesives and weaken suction mounts.

“We regularly see reports of dashcams, phone holders and sat-nav mounts falling from windscreens during heatwaves because the adhesive can struggle in extreme temperatures.”

Power Banks, Vapes And Aerosols Should Never Be Left Behind in the vehicle

Portable chargers, vape batteries and aerosol products can become dangerous when left in



hot vehicles.

“Cars parked in direct sunlight can become significantly hotter than people realise. It’s always best to remove any battery-powered devices or pressurised containers before leaving your vehicle.”

Electric Vehicles Can Also Feel The Impact

While many people associate battery issues with cold weather, extreme heat can affect electric vehicles too.

“Battery cooling systems have to work harder in hot conditions, which can impact efficiency and potentially reduce range on longer journeys.”

Drivers Themselves Become Less Alert

Heat doesn’t just affect vehicles.

“Even mild dehydration can affect concentration, reaction times and decision-making behind the wheel. If you’re driving long distances, staying hydrated is just as important as checking your vehicle.”

How To Keep Your Car Cool During A Heatwave

Majid recommends motorists take a few simple precautions before travelling:

- Check tyre pressures before setting off
- Ensure coolant levels are topped up
- Carry extra drinking water



- Use sunshades where possible
- Park in shaded areas
- Avoid leaving electronics in direct sunlight
- Remove power banks, aerosols and vape devices from vehicles
- Test air conditioning systems before longer journeys
- Take regular breaks on long drives

“Most heat-related vehicle problems are entirely preventable,” adds Majid.

“A few minutes of preparation before setting off can help drivers avoid breakdowns, stay comfortable and travel more safely during hot weather.”

About GM Direct Hire:

GM Direct Hire is a UK vehicle hire specialist providing cars, vans and commercial vehicles to customers across the UK. For more information please go to: <https://gmdirecthire.co.uk/>