

Headlights

Why drive with headlights on?

Most people recognise the benefit of driving with headlights on in the daytime when it rains or when driving through a tunnel, etc.

Research shows that driving with your headlights on all the time can lessen your likelihood of being in a crash, even when the weather is fine.

Driving with headlights on all the time is known as Daytime Running Lights (DRL) and works in much the same way as wearing a high-visibility vest in a factory setting.

Because your vehicle is more easily seen, crashes happen less often. The crashes that tend to happen less are the types of crashes where pedestrians step out from the kerb, or vehicles pull out of junctions in front of you.

At a crash scene, police often hear the words, "I'm so sorry, I just didn't see them".

Dazzled or noticed?

There is a very big difference between being dazzled, and being noticed. To avoid distracting, or dazzling other drivers, you must not drive with your high beam on within 200 metres of an oncoming vehicle.

However, if your vehicle's headlights are on low beam and properly aligned, you will not normally dazzle another driver.

Will it cost me anything?

It is true that driving with DRL's does come at a small cost. Over a year, you will use a very small amount of extra fuel, and you can expect your head & tail light globes to expire sooner than later. However, this cost is more than offset by the scientifically proven safety advantage.

If you forget to turn off your headlights, you may return to your vehicle to find a flat battery. This is certainly inconvenient, but not as inconvenient as even a minor crash.

Many modern cars are configured in such a way that headlights automatically turn off when you take the key out of the ignition. For a small fee, an auto electrician can rewire your car to do the same.

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