

At the back:

- ✓ Two red lights (known as tail lights)
- ✓ Two red brake lights
- ✓ Two red reflectors
- ✓ Number plate lighting
- ✓ Direction indicators lights (amber only)
- ✓ One or two reversing lights (white)

For lighting on other vehicles contact the Road Safety Authority.

REMEMBER

- ✓ Before any journey you should check that all your lights, indicators and brake lights are in working order. Park the car in a non-traffic area and ask a friend to observe each light as you activate it.
- ✓ When having your car serviced ensure that the lighting equipment is thoroughly checked.
- ✓ When doing your check, if you discover that the lighting on one side of the car is defective, you should get it fixed immediately.

! Collisions have been caused where vehicles with such defects have been mistaken for motorcycles

! Incorrectly adjusted headlamps can cause collisions by blinding oncoming drivers.

! If you sometimes carry heavy items in the boot, this extra weight will change the level of the headlamps and may dazzle oncoming drivers. You should refer to your car manual to find out if there is a way to adjust the lights.

Light Up Day



The RSA's Light Up Day promotes the correct use of lights and highlights the responsibility on drivers to ensure that they do not have defective, broken, missing or inappropriate vehicle lighting.

Working To Save Lives



RSA website



Rules of the Road website



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre Road Safety Authority

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RSA



THE CORRECT USE OF LIGHTS ON CARS

An tÚdarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

Correct use of lights

- ✓ A well-lit vehicle will be clearly visible to other road users. Remember, your lights, reflectors, number plate lighting and indicators will be effective only if you keep them clean and in good working order.



Incorrectly adjusted and damaged lights are dangerous. They will limit the range of vision and, even when dipped, may dazzle oncoming traffic.

In good driving conditions the minimum that the full headlights in the average motor vehicle should be able to see is about:

- 100 metres (about 25 car lengths) on an unlit road
- 30 metres (about 7 car lengths) on dipped headlights.

Guidance on vehicle lights

Full headlights

- ✓ **Always** use full headlights when driving at night
- ✗ **Never** use your full headlights in the following circumstances:
 - ✗ in a built-up or special speed limit area where there is good street lighting
 - ✗ when stopped in traffic
 - ✗ when meeting oncoming traffic
 - ✗ if you see red lights of a vehicle in front of you
 - ✗ while parked temporarily
 - ✗ wherever they may cause annoyance or distraction for other road users

Dipped headlights

Always use dipped headlights in the following circumstances:

- Just after the beginning (dusk) and before the end (dawn) of lighting-up hours
- When driving in a built-up or special speed limit area (for example, a residential area) where there is good street lighting

- ✓ When following close behind another vehicle or when you see their rear red lights
 - ✓ Where there is dense fog, falling snow or heavy rain (where fog lamps are fitted they may only be used in heavy fog or falling snow)
- ! If the conditions require the use of headlights, then you must use them

Rear red lamps

Rear red lamps (tail lights) and brake lights are absolutely necessary to warn traffic coming behind you. Don't drive on tail lights of the car in front. It can give a false sense of security and may lure you into driving too close or too fast or both.

Indicator Lights

Indicator lights are amber in colour and are located at the front, the rear and sometimes at the side of vehicles on both the left and right hand sides. You must use your indicators to indicate your intention to change the direction of your vehicle or combination of vehicles. Use them in good time, giving other road users plenty of time to react and adapt to your signal. Once you have completed the manoeuvre make sure the indicator is cancelled, otherwise you may confuse other motorists.

Reversing Lights

When a car is put into reverse gear either one or two white lights are activated at the rear of the car. This will help the motorist manoeuvre the car especially in darkness. It also serves as a useful warning to other road users that the car is reversing.

Fog lights

In a survey carried out by the Road Safety Authority (RSA), 13% of drivers were found to use fog lights inappropriately, that is, using fog lights when there was no fog or falling snow. Remember you can only use fog lights in dense fog or falling snow (if you cannot see more than 100 metres – about 25 car lengths). Remember to switch off fog lights when visibility improves. Using fog lights in clear weather is a motoring offence and will risk causing glare or dazzling other drivers. Fog lights are an optional extra and not a legal requirement.

Hazard warning lights

These may be used when your vehicle is stationary to warn others that your car is temporarily obstructing traffic. Never use them as an excuse for dangerous or illegal parking. You must not use hazard warning lights unless you need to warn drivers behind you of a hazard or obstruction ahead.

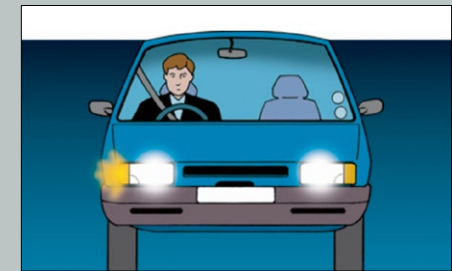
Daytime Running Lights (DRL)

Daytime Running Lights (DRL) make vehicles easier to see and hence increase road safety by reducing the number and severity of road traffic collisions. They involve motorists either using their dipped headlights during the hours of daylight or using dedicated DRL. An increasing number of vehicles have dedicated DRL fitted as standard and they are now mandatory on all new cars. The RSA recommends that if your vehicle is not fitted with DRL you drive with your dipped headlights switched on.



The Law

Motor vehicles **must** have the following lights and reflectors.



At the front:

- ✓ Two headlights (white or yellow)
- ✓ Two white sidelights
- ✓ Direction indicator lights (amber only)