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Mr Toad's Motoring Questions

You Ask, He Answers...



Maxey.co.uk is pleased to bring you the latest in our series of question and answer features from Maxey's own 'Mr. Toad'. For legal reasons (and his own safety!), Mr. Toad will remain anonymous for now.

You can contact him here: maxeytoad@hotmail.com
 Don't be shy, send all your questions to the expert.

Dear Toad

Q. I work for a company that uses a pool car system and I have to drive whatever's available. My problem Peter is that big cars terrify me and I dread driving and especially parking the things. How do I overcome my phobia?

Tammy, High Street

A. You need to arrange it so that you have a large car for the weekend Tammy. Then you can drive it seriously for a couple of days in an unpressured environment and get used to it. Large cars are really not that big in comparison and are really quite easy to manoeuvre in town; parking however is a different matter.

Drive to an empty car park (not Tesco on a Saturday) and Practice lining the car up with the white lines, forward and reverse, by using points on the windscreen and rear window as reference. You can stick little pieces of tape on the glass to help you.

Toad

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Dear Mr Toad

Q. Why don't more manufacturers fit heated front windscreens standard? I think they're brilliant and they must be safer.

Jackie, Torpel Way

A. I agree Jackie; a heated front screen is a boon in frosty weather. I think the cost of replacement and the associated insurance premium hike must be deciding factors, otherwise they would be standard in most cars.

Toad

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Help Toad!

Q. We've just got back from our honeymoon and noticed that the car smells awful. I can't really describe the aroma but compost and Kouras spring to mind. We drove to the airport in it from the Church but it was fine then, what do you think it could be Peter?

Tracy, Tuckers Nook

A. Similar thing happened to my Bentley when I married the 1st Mrs Toad Tracy (in fact the marriage went downhill from there come to think of it) Check the heater matrix and air intake hoses for 'items' placed there by your hilarious wedding guests. I found a halibut that had gently poached in the sun-baked car for two weeks at Heathrow while we were away, hmmm!

Toad

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Dear Toad

Q. My boss has just collected a new car with a personal plate that reads: 130 OBS and he's told me he's going to push the 1 and the 3 together. As a well-endowed lady I not only find this offensive but also, is this legal?

Angry of Deeping

A. Perfectly, Angry (if I can call you Angry?) if he'd left the plate to read as it's supposed to, with the letters and numbers correctly spaced. The illegality would be if he has misrepresented the registration number of the car by irregular spacing. He can be fined up to £1000 and could be forced to have his car re-registered.

He sounds like a man's man, Angry; get a set of PEN 15 plates made up and put them on your own car, just while it's parked next to his in the car park.

Calm Toad

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Attn Mr Toad

Q. I am writing to you because you seem to be in touch with women. My wife is 40 next month and I want to buy her something special. She is a very keen motorist and has always been interested in cars and car things generally, far more than me. Can you suggest something please Toad?

Keith, Bainton.

A. I've got just the thing for your wife Keith, you should buy yours what I bought my petrol head for Christmas last year. Another keen motorist and racing fan, she went for a day's tuition at Brands Hatch with the Nigel Mansell Racing School and loved every minute. Flying round in BMW's and single seaters your lady will be assessed for her skills improvement over the day and awarded a certificate of competence, if she achieves the right level. My wife was the only lady there apart from one of the instructors and she wiped the tarmac with the so-called boy racers! Great fun, great day and very different.

Toad

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Mr Toad

Q. Why is it that police forces in different parts of the country seem to use dissimilar cars?

Rhoda, West End Road

A. Because county constabularies have their own budgets, like separate businesses Rhoda, the chief constables having a finite amount to spend. One of their largest expenses (apart from overtime and police on gardening leave) is transport.

Car manufacturer's like to have policemen driving their cars, it's almost a testimony to their reliability and performance in the public perception and different manufacturers will give cars to the police for 'evaluation' over periods of time - product placement in it's purest form. Should the police then decide to buy them the deals are ultra competitive and often include 'buy-backs', whereupon the dealers usually auction them as 'one careful owner' cars with a somewhat lengthy service record!

Toad

Bye 4 Now.....Riddipp!!

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