

Top tips from the Car Doctor for preparing for the return of your company car/ lease car.

Below is some info we have put together to help you reduce your 'End of lease charges'.

What is the end of lease charge for??

When you return your vehicle to the lease company if it has dents, scuffs, scratches etc then you will be charged a 'end of lease charge' which is basically a fee reflective of the loss in value to the vehicle to the lease company. They don't usually repair them as generally vehicles will be sold on with the damage to buyers auctions etc.

To help you through the minefield of what is fair wear and tear using info from BVRLA and our knowledge and experience we have put together below some tips when you start to get close to your lease ending .

1. Carry out the appraisal of the vehicle 6-8 weeks before the vehicle is due for return.
 -
2. Appraise the vehicle as honestly as you can – be objective. - There is an allowance for some wear and tear ie stone chips are allowed on the forward/ front panels, providing they are consistent with the age and mileage of the vehicle or scratches which are light and can be polished out. Not allowed for example is dents on the panels such as bonnets, wheel arches or paint chips on a panel that has caused rusting or scratches that are down to the bare metal. A good guide is if your finger nail will slot into it it is too deep.
 -
3. Make sure the car has been washed and is thoroughly clean but remember to allow time for it to dry. Water on the paintwork can mask faults.
 -
4. Walk all the way around the vehicle and examine closely each panel including the roof, bonnet, doors, and body for significant damage, Crouch or kneel down at the front and rear of the vehicle and look along the bodyline on each side. This will help you see scratches and dents that may otherwise be difficult to spot.
 -
5. Inspect lamps, lenses, windows and mirrors for chips, cracks and holes.
 -
6. Check the tyres (including spare) for damage. Check that the wear on the tread across each tyre is even. Inspect wheels, wheel trims and wheel spokes for scratches and deterioration.
 -
7. Clean and valet the interior. Check upholstered areas for odours, tears, burns, stains and wear.
 -
8. Inspect all controls, including audio equipment and accessories – they should be present and fully functional.

•As you can see this whole process is quite complicated and to an untrained eye paint or body damage can be missed. So our advice is if you have a vehicle which is due to go back call us 6-8 weeks before that date we can then arrange to do the appraisal for you we will then tell you what will be acceptable or not and provide you with a free quote for the repairs needed. We usually find we save customers around 50% on their lease return charge where we tidy up and make good before you send it back to your lease company.

•If your company has a fleet of vehicles we can help you manage return dates, repairs and maintenance and even better rates where there is increased volumes.

•Contact julie@cardoctoronline.co.uk for more info or to arrange an appointment.