

## HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER



### Penalties for Using Mobile Phones When Driving

It has been illegal to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving since 2003.

From 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 the Fixed Penalty Notice for using a handheld mobile phone while driving was doubled to **£200 and 6 points**.

Lorry and bus drivers caught using a phone could be suspended, and new drivers will have their licence revoked if they get 6 or more points within 2 years of passing their test.

If you are caught using your phone twice or with 12 points on your licence, you may be taken to court, banned and fined £1,000.

Using a phone includes making or receiving calls, texting, messaging, browsing the internet, social media, taking photos or video, and even using it as a sat nav. You may use a two-way radio but no other device that sends or receives data.

If you use your phone as a sat nav, it must be mounted in a hands-free holder.

It is illegal to drive or even be in the driver's seat with the engine on when you are holding a mobile phone in your hand. This includes being sat in traffic, even with auto-stop/start cutting out the engine temporarily.

Even if you're using your phone "hands-free", if you're seen to not be in control of your vehicle, you can still be prosecuted. The penalties for 'not in proper control' are a £100 fine and 3 points, or up to £1,000 (£2,500 for lorries and buses) if it goes to court.

If your phone rings while you are driving, let it go to voicemail. Find a safe place to pull over, stop and turn the engine off before listening to your messages or returning the call, even if your phone is on hands-free. If you have to talk on a hands-free phone, keep conversations brief or say you'll ring them back.

Transport secretary Chris Grayling said: "Everyone has a part to play in encouraging their family and friends not to use their phones while driving – it is as inexcusable as drink driving."

Be aware as well that you can be fined for throwing something out of your window, so save your rubbish to take to a bin.

### Pollution and the Environment

We talk about it all the time, but what actually is the Environment?

The environment is everything that surrounds us. It can be considered in three main components:

- Air
- Water
- Land

All three are essential for the survival of plants and animals (including humans).



The way humans through businesses use natural resources to produce goods and services results in changes to the environment, which are termed "environmental impacts".

Environmental impacts can be good or bad, and their scale and type of impact can vary. One form of negative impact is pollution.

So what is Pollution?

Pollution is the release of harmful substances into the environment.

If you release or allow the release of substances or energy into the environment, this can harm:

- Human health
- Valuable species and ecosystems
- Food chain
- Property or amenities

