

London, 23rd April 2026

Car drivers fear getting behind the wheel of a larger van

Europcar offers useful tips for van newbies as DIY season gets into full swing

For DIYers, hiring a van often makes sense to move waste, materials and furniture that won't fit in the average car. But new research¹ from Europcar shows that many drivers are hesitant about getting behind the wheel of a larger van, with size, manoeuvrability and fear of accidental damage ranking among the top concerns.

Key findings

- **31%** of drivers were worried about parking a large van
- **30%** were concerned about narrow roads
- **35%** would opt for hiring a van that was similar in overall size to a car
- **52%** of drivers said they would be more concerned about damaging a rental van than a rental car
- **21%** of van renters would opt to reduce the insurance excess

In response, the vehicle rental provider asked regular van drivers² for their top tips:

- Get to know the vehicle before driving away
- Practice reversing in a quiet area before setting off
- Plan routes to avoid tight streets or low bridges
- Always check your mirrors
- Be aware of blind spots... especially if there are cyclists around
- Heavier loads also impact braking and stability making a slower, gentler driving approach essential
- Watch out for speed limits for larger vehicles
- Be patient with how you drive

"Hiring a van makes larger DIY jobs more manageable and efficient, and you can cut your environmental impact by reducing the number of trips to the recycling centre or DIY store," explained Sarah Clarke, Senior Consumer Marketing Manager at Europcar. "But we know it can be daunting to consider driving a van if you're used to being behind the wheel of a smaller vehicle which is why we've researched motorists' fears about van driving and provided some useful tips from professional van drivers. And our van specialists are on hand to help van newbies, with a detailed vehicle handover."

More than half of respondents (52%) said they would be more concerned about accidentally damaging a rented van than a rented car. This anxiety appears closely linked to confidence with vehicle size: while only 24% said they are not confident driving a medium van (short

wheel-based 8m³–12m³), this figure jumps dramatically to 54% for the largest vans on the Europcar fleet (long wheel-based 14m³ load capacity).

“When asked what worried them most about renting a van, motorists pointed overwhelmingly to challenges caused by size and visibility,” added Sarah Clarke. “Motorists are more comfortable with vehicles closer in size to a car; confidence drops sharply as vans become taller, longer and wider. Concerns around parking, blind spots and the overall size of the vehicle are completely understandable.

“Europcar is committed to giving customers the confidence they need, whether that’s through walk-throughs or online guidance and practical tips from real van drivers. With the right support, even the biggest vans can feel manageable, safe and far less daunting. For added peace of mind, customers can also upgrade their protection package to reduce excess and limit liability in the event of damage.”

The Europcar van fleet features a wide range of vehicles to suit different needs, including the Mercedes Vito, Renault Master, and Iveco Daily, plus electric vans that give consumers a practical, eco-friendly way to move large items or complete DIY projects with zero tailpipe emissions. With flexible rental options and easy charging access, customers can enjoy a smooth, quiet driving experience while reducing their environmental impact.

Find out more and book a van to make your Spring garden or home improvement project run smoothly at europcar.co.uk/en-gb/p/van-rental



End

Contacts

Press Relations

Wendy Harrison/Cecile Stearn/Clare Watson:

europcarmobilitygroupUK_PR@harrisonsadler.com

020 8977 9132

Notes to Editors

About Europcar Mobility Group

Europcar Mobility Group is a global mobility player, with 75 years of mobility services expertise and a leading position in Europe.

"We help to change the way you move" is what we stand for and brings us together. More than ever, we're committed to delivering simple, seamless, innovative solutions that make mobility easy, enjoyable and increasingly eco-friendly.

To do this, we offer to individuals and businesses a wide range of car and van rental services, be it for a few hours, a few days, a week, a month or more, on-demand or on subscription, relying on a fleet of more than 280.000 vehicles, equipped with the latest engines including an increasing share of electric vehicles.

Our brands address differentiated needs, use cases and expectations: Europcar® - a global leader of car rental and light commercial vehicle rental, Goldcar® - a frontrunner at providing low-cost car rental services in Europe, Fox-Rent-A-Car®, one of the main players in the car rental market in the US, with a "value for money" positioning, and Euromobil®, a German car rental player. The Group also operates the "myEuropcar" platform for vehicle subscription.

Customers' satisfaction is at the heart of the Group's ambition and that of our more than 9,000 employees, everywhere we deliver our mobility solutions, thanks to a strong network in over 130 countries (including 15 wholly owned subsidiaries completed by franchisees and alliance partners).

More info: www.europcar-mobility-group.com