

## Car sharing etiquette

A good car sharer considers the needs of their partner, is open from the start and thinks about all eventualities. Setting out some ground rules so that everyone knows where they stand is an important step in making car sharing work.

Here are our top ten tips to make car sharing work.

1. Agree on in-car etiquette where you might have different preferences, such as eating and drinking in the car.
2. Decide on a trial period.
3. Review the arrangement on a regular basis so that either party can remove themselves from the arrangement, no questions asked.
4. Make sensible arrangements to ensure your own personal safety. Arrange to meet your potential car share partner for the first time in a public place.
5. Settle on pick up and drop off arrangements. If there are multiple car sharers, it might be easier and more convenient for everyone to get to a common meeting point and then travel in one car from there.
6. Agree on waiting times. It can be frustrating when people are consistently late. Decide between you how long you will wait for someone to turn up before setting off.
7. Exchange telephone numbers as things can happen at the last minute to disrupt your planned arrangements. Familiarise yourself with the Guaranteed Ride Home scheme in case an issue arises.
8. Share travel costs fairly. You can charge your passengers if you car share, as long as you don't make a profit from the charge. Alternatively, you can take it in turns to drive your own cars so that the costs will be equally shared. If you do agree to charge for the journeys, the 'fare' must be agreed in advance, and it should be an appropriate amount towards petrol costs, depreciation and wear and tear. The charge should be divided equally amongst the number of people in the car, including yourself. There are 'cost calculators' available on-line and on CarShareGM.
9. Insurance considerations. Your car must be taxed and have a valid MOT, and you must be adequately insured. There aren't generally any insurance implications of car sharing because it is usually a non-commercial agreement. Be aware that your insurance would become invalid if you were to charge passengers more than their fair share of the running costs.
10. Enjoy the experience! Car sharing can be a really sociable way of getting to work and meeting someone new.