

Driving at night

Keys to gaining the maximum benefit from your car lights

- / **Using the right lights is essential when driving at night, when 30% of accidents take place in Europe**
- / **The inclusion of LEDs and assistants such as high beam assist make driving safer and more comfortable**
- / **Incorrect use of the rear fog lamps could cause excessive glare: they should only be turned on in extreme conditions of rain or fog**

Martorell, 25/10/2018.- Clocks will soon be changing back one hour, and many people are going to make their commute from work to home when the sun has already gone down. Despite there being less road traffic at night, this is when 30% of all accidents take place in Europe. In situations of poor visibility, it is important to know how to use your car's lights. Maite París, who is in charge of Headlamps at SEAT, explains how to use them effectively:

- **No reason not to turn on the high beams:** They are only allowed on intercity roads with little visibility, but **“many drivers do not use them for fear of dazzling oncoming traffic. That's where the high beam assist comes in handy”**, explains Maite. This system detects the presence of vehicles in both directions and automatically switches back to main beams accordingly, providing extra comfort and safety.

- **6 months of darkness:** This is how people live in the town of Rjukan, Norway, as they get no sunlight from September to March. In places like these, dipped beams are mandatory 24 hours a day. On the other hand, in countries such as Spain, dipped beams are only used at night or during the day when there is poor visibility, for example in a tunnel or under heavy rain. They must also be used when driving in a reversible lane. In these situations, the 'Auto' option **“makes driving more comfortable, as it automatically activates the dipped beams”**, assures this engineer.

- **LEDs, faster and safer:** With the addition of LED bulbs, **“not only do we save on consumption and gain in comfort, but we also improve safety”**, says Maite. This kind of lighting is more similar to daylight than a halogen bulb. It also responds 150 milliseconds faster than an incandescent bulb, meaning that the LED of a brake light activates 5 metres sooner when driving at 120 km/h. Furthermore, they are designed to last throughout the service life of the vehicle and do not have to be changed.

- **When to turn on the fog lamps:** One common mistake driver make is to turn on the rear fog lamps on a day with light rain. This expert points out that **“they should only be turned on in situations when there is little visibility, like heavy rain or thick fog”**. Incorrect use could dazzle other drivers. If your car is equipped with front fog lamps, you can use them **“in cases**



of poor visibility such as heavy or very heavy rain, fog, snow or dust and smoke clouds, as well as on narrow winding roads.”

- The most subtle light of all: Although there is no prohibition on the interior courtesy light, **“it’s best not to use it for long periods so you can pay full attention to the road”**, says Maite, who compares it to **“going to the cinema: in order to concentrate on the film we need our surroundings to be as dark as possible.”**

SEAT is the only company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets cars in Spain. A member of the Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its headquarters in Martorell (Barcelona), exporting 80% of its vehicles, and is present in over 80 countries on all five continents. In 2017, SEAT obtained an after tax profit of 281 million euros, sold close to 470,000 cars and achieved a record turnover of more than 9.5 billion euros.

The SEAT Group employs more than 15,000 professionals and has three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza, Arona and Leon. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca and the Toledo in the Czech Republic, the Tarraco in Germany, the Alhambra in Portugal and the Mii in Slovakia.

The multinational has a Technical Centre, which operates as a knowledge hub that brings together 1,000 engineers who are focussed on developing innovation for Spain’s largest industrial investor in R&D. SEAT already features the latest connectivity technology in its vehicle range and is currently engaged in the company’s global digitalisation process to promote the mobility of the future.

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