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### Getting to school safely by bus: Practice makes perfect...

Millions of children use the bus each day to get to and from school. It is a fundamentally safe way for children to travel, yet accidents still happen. DEKRA's accident experts explain what parents and children should do to improve safety on the way to school.

### Tire pressure monitoring systems: Manual pressure checks still needed

Does a vehicle tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) make it unnecessary to manually check tire pressure at regular intervals? It is not quite as simple as that, say DEKRA's experts. Anyone who thinks it is no longer necessary to check their tires is on the wrong track.

### On tour in a motor home: A feeling of freedom

Vacationing in a motor home is more attractive than ever – even if some popular destinations can be crowded. “However, touring in a home on wheels should be well-planned to ensure that nothing can spoil the vacation fun,” recommends Thomas Gut, a DEKRA accident analyst.

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- Cyclists and pedestrians: Signal your approach in good time
- DEKRA continues to grow: Investing in future fields
- Restoring the Kelly Family's legendary double-decker



*Riding the school bus: Integrate bus travel into family life at an early stage*

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### Getting to school safely by bus **Practice makes perfect...**

Millions of children use the bus each day to get to and from school. It is a fundamentally safe way for children to travel, yet accidents still happen. DEKRA's accident experts explain what parents and children should do to improve safety on the way to school. "If parents integrate bus travel into family life at an early stage and ride buses together with their children, then using the bus will be seen as something normal," says DEKRA accident researcher Markus Egelhaaf. "It's how children learn about bus stops and schedules and how to behave on the bus from a young age."

If children are taken on buses when they are in preschool and elementary school, they will find it much easier to ride buses alone later on. "However, those children taken everywhere by car miss out on this important lesson," stresses the expert. Parents can really help their children use the bus safely to travel to school. "They play an important role by preparing, accompanying, and being a role model to their children."

**Practice traveling to school together:** Younger children especially benefit from many times of practicing the walk to the bus stop, how to behave there, and getting on and off the bus safely. That is how safe behaviors become routine.

**Explain the risks and talk about the rules:** Parents should talk to their children about typical risks such as the bus restricting visibility, hurrying to cross the road, or the presence of cyclists near a bus stop.

**Leave plenty of time:** Children should never have to rush on their way to school. Leaving punctually means they will be calmer and pay more attention as they go.

**Ensure good visibility:** Light-colored clothing and reflective elements on jackets, rucksacks, and shoes enhance visibility, especially in the dark, rain, or fog.

**Ensure the safe design of clothing and equipment:** Rucksacks, bags, and clothing should be designed so that no belts, cords, or other objects can get caught.

**Lead by example:** Children are greatly influenced by adults' behavior. Their safety awareness will be enhanced by adults who themselves keep to the traffic rules and travel with care. (DEKRA Info)



*Upward trend continues:  
Vacationing in a motor home*

### On tour in a motor home **A feeling of freedom**

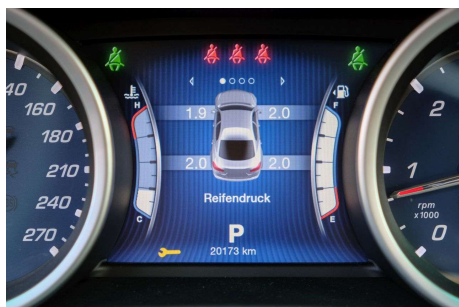
Vacationing in a motor home is more attractive than ever – even if some popular destinations can be crowded. According to Germany’s Caravanning Industry Association, the one millionth motor home was registered in the country in 2025, meaning that the number of such vehicles has doubled since 2018. “However, touring in a home on wheels should be well-planned to ensure that nothing can spoil the vacation fun,” recommends Thomas Gut, a DEKRA accident expert.

After the winter break, it makes sense to have the vehicle checked thoroughly by a specialist. This check should include the braking system, engine, tires, and electronics especially, but also the liquid gas system. Since 2025, regardless of when the vehicle’s roadworthiness test is due, the gas system must be tested in accordance with G 607.

A vehicle’s tires are a frequently overlooked weak point; they may have deteriorated due to the vehicle standing unused for a long time, high loads, and long travel distances. That is why, at the start of the season, it is important to look for any damage, check the tread depth, and have older tires examined by an expert. The tire pressure should be adjusted to the vehicle’s load – when the tires are cold.

If you cannot do without things like your mountain bike or paddleboard, you need to remember your vehicle’s permitted total laden weight when you are loading up. You also need to put thought into how you stow your luggage. “Heavy items should be down as low as possible; lighter things can be placed higher up. Not doing this will result in instability and make steering difficult,” says the expert.

Even the normal road performance of a motor home means many drivers have to rethink. Fine-tuning is particularly important when it comes to braking, swerving, and driving through bends. “Especially for new motorhome drivers and those with less experience, it may be a good idea to take part in special safety training and get familiar with the vehicle,” says Gut. “Drivers are safer on the road if they are able to respond correctly and automatically in critical situations such as when a sudden side wind occurs.” (DEKRA Info)



*Tire pressure monitoring systems  
check tire pressure automatically*

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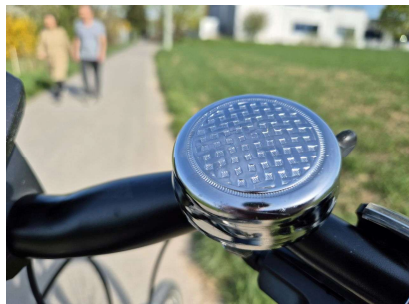
### Tire pressure monitoring systems fitted in 70 percent of cars **DEKRA: Manual pressure checks still needed**

Since November 2014, all newly registered cars in the EU must be equipped with a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS). According to the German Tyre Retail and Vulcanisation Trade Association, more than 70 percent of cars in Germany are now fitted with such a system. This requirement was extended to trucks, buses, and heavy trailers in July 2024. Once set, a TPMS automatically checks a vehicle's tire pressure and triggers a dashboard warning in the event of any deviation from the value. So does a TPMS make it unnecessary to manually check pressure at regular intervals? It is not quite as simple as that, say DEKRA's experts. Anyone who thinks it is no longer necessary to check their tires is on the wrong track.

"Tire pressure monitoring systems usually function precisely and reliably. However, any warning is delayed by a system-related tolerance," explains tire expert Christian Koch. "This tolerance makes sense because warnings would otherwise be triggered very frequently as the result of unavoidable, temperature-related variations in tire pressure. The warning threshold is set at 20 percent in relation to the warm tire pressure."

"In addition, these indirect systems are unable to directly measure the actual pressure of each tire." That is why the expert recommends that drivers regularly check their tire pressure manually, even if their vehicle is equipped with a TPMS. This should preferably be done at the same time as checking the tires for any penetrating objects like nails or screws, wear and tear, or any other damage.

It should be remembered that the system must be recalibrated each time the tire pressure is adjusted, for example, when the vehicle is being loaded with more items or passengers for a vacation. The pressure should always be measured when the tires are cold – so before starting any journey. In any case, the tires should be checked at least every four weeks. The Porsche 959 is considered the first vehicle to have been equipped with an optional TPMS in 1986, followed by the Renault Scenic in 1996. The system was first fitted as standard in the Peugeot 607 in 1999. (DEKRA Info)



*Signal your approach in good time: Improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians*

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### Cyclists and pedestrians

## Signal your approach to improve safety

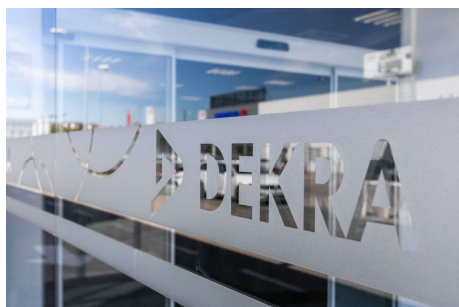
Critical situations and accidents occur time and again when cyclists overtake pedestrians on jointly used paths. DEKRA's accident experts recommend that cyclists use their bell in good time to signal their intention to overtake. "This warns anyone on foot, possibly giving them the chance to move one step to the side. It also spares them from a fright, not least because cyclists are often difficult to hear when they are approaching from behind."

**Cut your speed:** "It is recommended that cyclists reduce their speed so they still have time to react if a pedestrian moves the wrong way," says Luis Ancona, a DEKRA accident researcher. This is the case especially when passing larger groups of children or walkers with dogs. It is important that cyclists do not ring their bell at the last moment but in good time and leave plenty of room when they pass.

**Observe the dynamics of a group:** Special care is needed when passing groups. As a rule, people in groups are more likely than individuals to be distracted – by conversations, children, or dogs. Just because one person in the group reacts to a cyclist's bell does not automatically mean that the others have realized what is going on.

**Mutual consideration:** "In spaces used by both pedestrians and cyclists, mutual consideration is especially important," stresses Ancona. On paths with oncoming traffic, this means that cyclists should keep as far to the right as possible. Pedestrians should also keep to the right and not block the entire width of the path.

**Duty of care:** It is also interesting to note the views of the courts. According to a ruling by the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court (DAR 20212, 82), cyclists have a greater duty of care toward pedestrians on jointly used paths and cycleways. In the same regard, Germany's Federal Court of Justice (DAR 2009, 81) established that, since cyclists do not have a right of way, pedestrians are not obliged to turn around and check for approaching cyclists, but may rely on cyclists if necessary using their bell in good time to signal their presence. (DEKRA Info)



*DEKRA on a growth track:  
Digitalization is increasing the  
need for independent expertise*

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### DEKRA is growing and adding new services **Investing in future fields**

DEKRA continues to grow and is focusing investment on the future fields of mobility, digital trust, and sustainability. "Greater digitalization in all areas is increasing the need for independent testing, inspection, and certification – our expertise here is a critical success factor," says DEKRA CEO Stan Zurkiewicz. Despite challenging geoeconomic conditions, the global testing, inspection, and certification organization increased its revenue in the 2025 financial year by 3.4 percent to 4.4 billion euros. Vehicle services remain the main pillar of the company's business. DEKRA is the global leader with 34 million vehicle inspections each year. At the same time, DEKRA is adding new services such as the world's first SESIP Level 5 assessment of a Google component, the accreditation for AI management systems, and the certification of green hydrogen installations. (DEKRA Info)



*Music history on wheels: The Kelly  
Family's double-decker is back in  
the road*

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### Restoring the Kelly Family's legendary double-decker **Heading to Wacken**

It is not just a legendary vintage vehicle but a piece of music history on wheels – the double-decker bus used by the Kelly Family (an Irish-German band) for touring in the 1990s. After a full restoration supported by DEKRA's vintage vehicle experts, the bus will be back on the road this summer. While the restoration was still ongoing, Joey Kelly revealed the first destination: "I'll be driving the bus to Wacken." It is an ambitious plan. "A massive project like this needs the right partner, and the support from DEKRA has been invaluable," says Joey Kelly, speaking about the restoration of the more than 60-year-old open-topped Bristol Lodekka, which carried tourists around London until the late 1980s. The Kelly Family then converted the bus for their band tours – downstairs was the living space and the top deck was a mobile stage. (DEKRA Info)