

## Content

### Tripping, slipping, falling: 450 accidents daily

It is frequently just little things that throw a spanner in the works. The Smartphone is ringing or the colleague is calling you over – things that make you lose concentration for a moment, and sometimes your balance. Situations in which people trip, slip or fall are often the cause of accidents in the workplace. There were more than 165,000 such work-environment accidents recorded in 2022 – more than 450 a day.

### Used car purchase: an expert check provides peace of mind

“Anybody who does their homework when buying a used car reduces the risk of landing a dud or racking up high follow-on costs,” says DEKRA used car expert Ronald Hufnagel. He recommends that potential buyers do not merely rely on the look of a vehicle or how it is presented on the internet, but rather have it given a thorough check.

### Motorcycle tires: Cold start warning!

DEKRA tire and motorcycle experts remind readers that many motorcycle tires only develop their optimum grip once they have warmed up. High angles as well as extreme forces during acceleration and braking should therefore be avoided when the tires are still relatively cold.

### Other topics

- The car in spring
- Checklist for the periodic inspection: save time and money
- Top record: 450 deployments in Formula 1



*Careful does it! 450 accidents a day through tripping, slipping, and falling.*

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### 165,000 tripping, slipping, and falling accidents a year

## **Beware the first and the last step**

It is frequently just little things that throw a spanner in the works. The Smartphone is ringing or the colleague is calling you over – things that make you lose concentration for a moment, and sometimes your balance. Being distracted or interrupted in your rhythm can disrupt normal actions like climbing stairs or moving out of the way. These situations frequently lead to tripping, slipping, and falling and in turn to work-environment accidents. According to figures released by the German Statutory Accident Insurance Association, there were more than 165,000 such work-related accidents in 2022 – more than 450 a day.

Slippery surfaces are always dangerous, for example: water, rain, snow, black ice, or grease on the ground – this constellation is responsible for the most typical accident of slipping or tripping. Such occurrences can frequently be avoided by paying more attention. "Keep your wits about you and remove things that can cause people to trip or fall," recommends DEKRA accident expert Fatih Yilmaz. "Pay attention to the state of the floor! It must be dry, clean, and intact; and wear slip-resistant shoes."

Stairs are also a potential hazard, accounting for nearly one in five accidents. "The key is to avoid stress, not to be distracted and to use the handrail. The first and last steps are the most dangerous. This is when your walking rhythm changes and you are most likely to trip," says Yilmaz. Climbing a ladder also requires a cool head. More than 4,400 accidents involving ladders have been recorded - that's 12 a day! "Avoid risky climbing acrobatics, and whatever you do, never use an office chair. Make sure steps and ladders are stable and, if necessary, get someone else to steady them for you."

Critical situations also frequently occur when stress is high, when a lot has to happen in a short time. Don't load too much when transporting objects, take advantage of any helping hand available and ensure that you can see where you are going," says Yilmaz. "Keep your wits about you during the day and if in doubt opt for the safer variant. And one last thing: provide positive feedback and thus ensure a better safety culture; praise people that do it right." (DEKRA Info)



*Used car purchase:  
Four eyes see better than two*

### Used car purchase

## A professional check-up provides peace of mind

Springtime, when many people contemplate acquiring a new vehicle, often sees the revival of the used car market. Despite the fact that people's pockets aren't as deep as they once were a few years ago, the need for mobility remains. Anybody thinking of purchasing a used car is well advised to focus on safety.

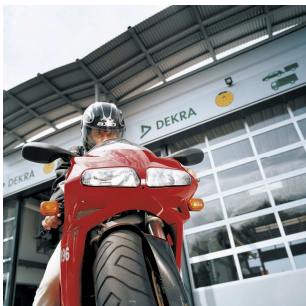
"Doing your homework before buying a used car reduces the risk of landing a dud or racking up high follow-on costs," says DEKRA used car expert Ronald Hufnagel. He recommends that potential buyers don't merely rely on the look of a vehicle, or how it is presented on the internet, but rather have it given a thorough check.

"Consult a technically knowledgeable friend who knows about cars and their problems, and knows where to look. Remember, two pairs of eyes always see more than just one," says Hufnagel. If you don't know anyone among your circle of friends who fits the bill and has the required know-how, definitely think about taking advice from an expert.

A valid inspection sticker provides a solid basis for an assessment. It shows that the vehicle corresponds to the regulations and is roadworthy. More precise analysis can be provided by more specific used car tests such as offered by the DEKRA Seal. Interested parties can combine the three available modules of bodywork, mechanical systems, and electronic systems in any way they like so as to obtain clarity about the state of the vehicle.

The mechanical check comprises systems such as brakes, steering, engine chamber and chassis. The bodywork check looks at the condition of the bodywork, but also the interior, including upholstery, instrument panels and operating elements. The transformation of the car into a computer chip on wheels means that the third module covering the electronic systems installed in the vehicle has increased in importance.

"The failure of a control device can entail costs running into four-digit figures," explains the used car specialist. This is why it's always sensible on high-quality used cars to ensure that all the declared assist systems are all onboard in fully working condition. (DEKRA Info)



*Cold tires – less grip*

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### Motorcycle tires: cold start warning!

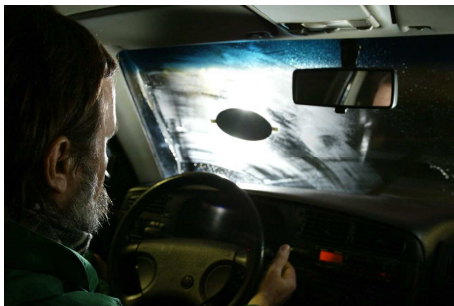
### **First “condition,” then let it rip**

The motorbike season is almost upon us and DEKRA tire and motorcycle experts would like to take this opportunity to remind readers that many motorcycle tires only develop their optimum grip once they have warmed up. High lean angles and extreme forces generated during acceleration and braking are to be avoided at the cold start phase. The rubber mixes used these days develop their best adherence properties only at temperatures of around 60° C and over. During normal cycling these temperatures are generally achieved after a few minutes.

Also, after fitting new tires, bikers should be careful during the first 150 kilometers. The tread of brandnew tires could still be covered in release agent from the production process and this reduces grip on the road,” explains DEKRA tire expert Christian Koch. It is also important before setting off on new tires that manufacturer stickers and any adhesive residue have been completely removed from the tread.

Tires continually suffer damage because they are subject to high acceleration and braking forces immediately after fitting; for example, when bikers want to let it rip from the off as soon as they leave the garage. Testing has shown that the fitting paste used when mounting the tires can sometimes take several hours to dry properly. If this is not taken into account, the rear tire might spin on the rim at high torque. This can impair driving stability and rip off the valve or induce slow air loss on tires fitted with tubes.

“New tires should therefore also be driven in carefully because modern motorcycle tires, in contrast to car tires, need to be “conditioned” to achieve their optimum performance,” explains Koch. “Driving-in will release volatile components of the mix, which achieves an optimum networking of the polymers in the tire. The failure to do this may destroy the tread in certain cases.” In order to avoid the all too frequent accidents caused by low air pressure, the tire expert recommends checking and adjusting the pressure as necessary at least twice a week and before setting off on any lengthy journey on cold tires. (DEKRA Info)



*Film on the windshield:  
Dazzled by the light.*

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### Car in the spring

## Fitness check for appearance and safety

Cold, ice, wet and grubby weather – the cold months are stressful for the car. As the weather becomes milder and spring announces its appearance, it is recommended to carry out a spring check that removes the traces of winter from the car and makes it fit for warmer days. This not only benefits the car's appearance but also means value retention and safety.

**Declutter.** Winter equipment that is no longer needed, such as snow chains, antifreeze, shovels and sandbags, is no better off in the basement. Less weight reduces fuel consumption and protects the environment, while freeing up space for summer equipment.

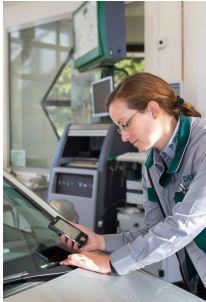
**Wash.** Providing the vehicle with a prewash is highly recommended as it prevents encrusted dirt from leaving unsightly scratches on the paintwork. An underbody wash eliminates aggressive dirt and salt residue, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

**Dab.** Incipient rust and minor chipping damage can be countered with the paint pen to prevent the rust from eating further into the paint. Sealing the surface with a hard wax finish, which provides the paint with greater protection against insects and acid rain does the rest.

**Ventilate.** Sunbathing with wide open doors allows any winter moisture to evaporate and freshens up the car. Also remove foot mats and dry separately. Combat any moisture in the footwell by spreading out newspaper and leaving overnight to absorb the moisture.

**Rub.** Layers of dirt both on the inside and outside of the windshields should be removed with glass cleaner. This improves vision at night and in poor visibility. Exchange worn washer blades and switch the washing water over to summer cleaner.

**Delegate.** People reluctant to get their hands dirty themselves can leave it all up to the care professionals. The garage could also check mechanical parts, the oil level, change the tires and exchange the filters, as well as, if necessary, carry out a climatic check. (DEKRA Info)



*Well prepared for the periodic inspection: Checklist saves time and money*

### Checklist for the periodic inspection **Save time and money**

If more than a minor fault is detected on a vehicle at the periodic inspection, the owner is obliged to present the vehicle for a follow-up inspection within a month. This costs time and money – and the expense could often have been avoided with the correct preparation. The car experts at DEKRA have drawn up a checklist that makes it easier to prepare for the periodic inspection. It contains recommendations based on the currently valid regulations set out in the official inspection. The list spans the relevant areas of the vehicle covered by the periodic inspection such as brakes, steering, visibility conditions and lights, but also extends to the evidencing of technical modifications, environmental burden, or other equipment. The checklist is available for download at [www.dekra.de](http://www.dekra.de), keyword Ratgeber HU. It also answers the most frequently asked questions about periodic inspections, inspection reports, required documentation, and deadlines. (DEKRA Info)



*Bernd Mayländer:  
After DTM now in the safety car of  
Formula 1 on course for a record*

### DEKRA partnership with FIA F1 Safety Car driver Bernd Mayländer

### **Nobody has racked up more Grand Prix races**

Nobody in the history of Formula 1 has racked up more Grand Prix races as Bernd Mayländer. The 52-year-old has taken part in almost all the races since the 2000 season as FIA F1 Safety Car driver – he has only missed out on four races due to injury. Overall, he has seen out more than 450 Grand Prix events and driven almost 1,000 directional circuits for safety in Formula 1. DEKRA has been the official partner of Bernd Mayländer since January 2024. "Despite the risks we as racing drivers are prepared to take, the topic of safety is right at the top of our concerns. For DEKRA, too, safety is the top priority. These are the values that bind us," says Mayländer. Guido Kutschera, Executive Vice President of the DEKRA Group, explains: "We are delighted to be the official partner of the genuine motorsport legend that is Bernd Mayländer." Bernd Mayländer grew up in Daimler-town, in Schorndorf near Stuttgart, entered motorsport in the eighties and drove in the Porsche Carrera Cup, the DTM, with FIA-GT-Sports Cars, the 24-hour Le Mans and at the Nürburgring. (DEKRA Info)

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