

**November 2022/11**

[www.dekra.com/en/dekra-info](http://www.dekra.com/en/dekra-info)

Publisher:  
DEKRA e.V.  
Corporate Communication  
Handwerkstraße 15  
70565 Stuttgart  
Germany

### Contents:

#### **Negotiating fog safely: lights, speed, distance!**

Falling temperatures and the subsequent formation of water condensation at ground level means that motorists must expect to encounter increasingly poor visibility conditions on the road and need to adapt their driving behavior to the resulting fog. DEKRA experts advise readers on how best to negotiate the “pea soup”.

#### **Keeping your wits about you when buying a used car: is it really a bargain or does the car have a dubious history?**

The thrill of taking possession of a new used car can soon be gone if it turns out that the apparent bargain has an accident history. That’s why it is important to keep your wits about you when buying a used car! Accident damage is usually something that leaves its mark on a car in some way. The used car experts at DEKRA remind readers what to look out for.

#### **A blast of fresh air can counter mold formation when room temperatures are low**

Cutting down on heating costs in the coming winter can come with some undesirable side-effects. Low room temperatures in the home can promote the formation of mold. However, DEKRA building expert, Andreas Kraus, knows that “this effect can be adequately countered by taking some specific measures.”

#### **Other topics:**

*Energy costs: Thermographic check reveals thermal bridges*

*DEKRA opens solar testing laboratory in Shanghai*

Date	Stuttgart, November 2022
Contact	Tilman Vögele-Ebering
Tel. direct	+49.7 11.78 61-21 22
Fax direct	+49.7 11.78 61-27 00
Email	<a href="mailto:tilman.voegel-ebering@dekra.com">tilman.voegel-ebering@dekra.com</a>
Internet	<a href="http://www.dekra.com">www.dekra.com</a>

Reproduction free of charge  
Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.



Photo: DEKRA

Reproduction free of charge Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

**Editorial offices please note:** The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office. Tel. +49.711.7861-2122

## Foggy conditions: Sense of speed disrupted

### Negotiating fog safely

#### **Lights, speed, distance**

Falling temperatures and the subsequent formation of water condensation at ground level means that motorists must expect to increasingly encounter poor visibility conditions on the road and they therefore need to adapt their driving behavior to the resulting fog. DEKRA experts advise readers on how best to negotiate the “pea soup”.

The first rule is to adjust your speed. “Visibility in fog is usually worse than in dark conditions,” says DEKRA accident researcher Andreas Schäuble. “If you can hardly make out the edge of the road, orientation and a sense of speed can be lost.” If the visibility is less than 50 meters due to fog, rain or snowfall, the German road traffic regulations specify that motorists are to drive at speeds no faster than 50 km/h. The roadside marker posts can be used as a guide as they are set up at 50-meter intervals.

It is also equally important to keep your distance. The golden rule here is to ‘drive on sight’. This means that you should only drive as fast as you can stop within the road you can see ahead of you. The accident researcher urgently warns against blindly tailgating the vehicle in front and thus shortening the distance. “Things can become pretty hairy pretty quickly if the vehicle in front brakes,” says Schäuble. “In poor visibility, the rule of thumb is the minimum distance in meters should equal your speed in km/h. So, for example, if you are driving in fog at 70 km/h on a country road, you require at least 70 meters distance to the vehicle in front.”

And don’t forget that if visibility is considerably impaired, regardless of whether by fog, snowfall or rain, motorists are obliged to drive with dipped headlights even in daylight. The fog lights are only to be turned on in such weather conditions. Rear fog lights are only allowed if the visibility in fog falls below 50 meters. High beam does not make sense in foggy conditions as it will reflect the fog droplets so strongly that the resulting dazzle will reduce visibility even more. The daytime running lights are too weak for fog, and do not activate the rear lights.

DEKRA Info



Photo: DEKRA

Reproduction free of charge Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

**Editorial offices please note:** The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office. Tel. +49.711.7861-2122

## An accident usually leaves its mark

### Keep your wits about you when buying a used car

## Is it really a bargain or does the car have a history?

The thrill of owning a new used car can soon be gone if it turns out that the apparent bargain has an accident history. That's why it is important to keep your wits about you when buying a used car! Accident damage is usually something that leaves its mark on a car in some way. Even if damage has been professionally repaired, there are frequently 'scars'. Used car experts at DEKRA give readers advice on some of the tell-tale signs of a previous accident.

- Check the gaps between the hood, wheel arch, doors and trunk lid. Differences in gap width indicate that a vehicle has been involved in an accident. Do doors, trunk and hood lid close easily? If they catch, it might indicate distorted hinges or frames.
- Do windshields, headlights or hood lid lack age-related chipping damage? Are their vestiges of adhesive tape around difficult to reach areas, for example in the engine compartment? Have tools left scratches or marks around screw connections?
- Does the paint finish display deviations in hue, a different structure, rippling or inclusions? Are there paint droplets on the bodywork? Are there signs of paint mist in the wheel housings or on the spring struts? Look at fitted parts, like headlights or rear lights; are there frequently different structures or differences in hue when transitioning to the body (at corners and edges)? All this suggests a subsequent application of paint.

DEKRA experts strongly advise against viewing a vehicle in twilight, rain or in a really dirty state, as many important details can be overlooked in the poor light. People having doubts during an inspection are well advised to consult an independent expert; especially when the seller has no convincing explanations for abnormalities. In such cases, peace of mind can be had by having a used car check undertaken by a neutral expert such as DEKRA. The expert check will give the vehicle a thorough going over.

DEKRA Info

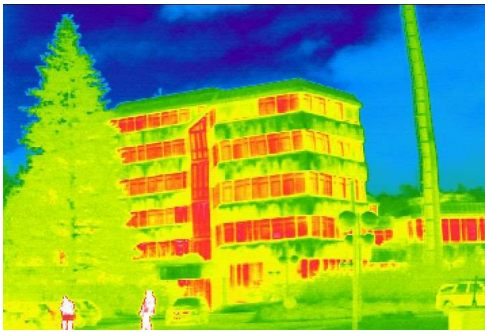


Photo: DEKRA

Reproduction free of charge Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

**Editorial offices please note:** The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office. Tel. +49.711.7861-2122

## Thermographic check detects energy leaks

### Rising energy prices

## Thermography uncovers thermal bridges

DEKRA real estate experts warn that even seemingly small thermal bridges can lead to relatively high extra energy costs or worsen the ambient temperature. That said, many building users can improve the energetic quality of a property just by taking some easy and cost-effective measures and already be able to save energy and money this winter.

Thermal bridges and gaps in the building shell frequently remain undetected and are usually the reason for excessive energy costs, and even worse, moisture damage. They enable damp to penetrate building components, which, at worse, leads to the onset of mold. Whether the building is residential, office block or a factory, these weak points in the building shell can be made visible by the aide of infrared thermography.

Thermography is only possible during a period of frost when the differences between outside and inside temperature is great enough to be able to make meaningful conclusions from the color-spectrum building images. The experts at DEKRA are keen to point out that if problem areas – that is thermal bridges or gaps – are discovered on the building, this does not mean that an expensive renovation is the only way to go. Gaps around window or outside door frames can be quickly remedied by replacing the seals.

By the way, the results of a thermographic check and the following renovation measures are not just important for saving energy. A well-insulated building is the basis for offering an improved feeling of wellbeing indoors. This also applies in summer. Well-insulated buildings are better at keeping living and workspaces cooler during high temperatures and ensure a pleasant, cool environment.

DEKRA Info



Photo: DEKRA

Reproduction free of charge Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

**Editorial offices please note:** The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office. Tel. +49.711.7861-2122

## Open bathroom window wide for airing

When the room temperature falls

### A blast of fresh air counters mold

Cutting down on heating costs in the coming winter could come with some undesirable side-effects. Low room temperatures in the home can promote the formation of mold. 'The reason being that lowering the indoor temperatures to save energy when it is cold outside also cools the surrounding components like walls and ceilings, as well. Moisture in the ambient air can settle easier on cold surfaces and hence create a favorable climate for the propagation of spores harmful to health.

However, DEKRA building expert, Andreas Kraus, says that "this effect can be adequately countered by taking some specific measures." Home owners always have spore problems when their rooms are permanently exposed to high humidity that is not released out of the home. It arises in day-to-day living in the home during showering, cooking, washing or through plants.

The expert suggests countering this by avoiding as far as possible the concentration of moisture in the home: for example, open the windows of the bathroom after showering to air the room and keep the bathroom door closed, hang washing outside and switch on the extractor hood when cooking insofar as it directs the air outside.

It should also be ensured that moist air, for instance from the kitchen or bathroom, does not have access to unheated rooms. As a rule, the bedroom is kept at a lower temperature than living rooms. "That's why it is recommended to keep the doors here closed so as not to allow warmer, damper air to penetrate the colder rooms," says Kraus. "Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that a basic heating of bedrooms should also take place so as to avoid damage."

Regular airing is likewise equally important. Throw doors and windows wide open for several minutes a couple of times a day to direct damp air out of the home. Short blasts of fresh air are not only much more effective than leaving windows on tilt for hours on end; it also prevents the neighboring walls around the window from cooling sharply. The DEKRA expert also reminds readers to make sure that furniture and drapes are posi-

tioned about ten centimeters away from cold walls so that the air can circulate and direct moisture away. Radiators should generally not be covered.

A minimum room temperature is directly dependent on the relative humidity, explains the DEKRA expert. “The lower the relative humidity in the room, the lower the room temperature can be set.” Guidelines concerning mold issued by the Federal Environment Agency state (assuming attention to the cited aspects such as airing, avoidance of moisture accumulation and air exchange between warm and cold rooms) that there should be no problems at temperatures of between 16 and 18 degrees Celsius.

The purchase of a hygrometer enables a quick and easy check of the indoor air status. The relative air humidity should be no more than 65 percent. Above this figure, the home owner would have to briefly air the rooms – and heat! At the end of the day the setting of the ambient temperature is a balance between saving energy and ensuring living comfort.

DEKRA Info



Photo: DEKRA

Reproduction free of charge Please mention DEKRA and send reference copy.

**Editorial offices please note:** The image can be obtained from the DEKRA Press Office. Tel. +49.711.7861-2122

## DEKRA opens solar testing laboratory in Shanghai

The technical services organization DEKRA has officially opened its biggest and most state-of-the-art solar laboratory to date in Baoshan, Shanghai. China is the world’s largest manufacturer of solar modules and the industry is recording high growth rates. The new laboratory sees the globally active expert organization fulfilling the growing demand on the part of the Chinese solar industry for high quality testing and certification services. “DEKRA shares a common goal with its customers and is committed to a safe and sustainable world. Sustainability and renewable energies are key for our future on this planet,” said Mike Walsh, head of DEKRA’s APAC region and Executive Vice President of the DEKRA Group. The DEKRA Renewable Energy Testing Center covers 2600 square meters and boasts leading-edge technical competences in photovoltaic technology. The laboratory offers a broad range of services covering testing and certification along the entire solar value chain; this ranges from raw materials to components and modules and extends to power plant operation and low-carbon certification.

DEKRA Info