

## Press Release

DEKRA's Experts Warn of the Risks of Dirty Headlamps

### Two-fold Safety Risk

- Reduced visibility and increased glare
- Gradual build-up of dirt is often noticed too late
- Clean lighting devices more often after driving on wet and dirty roads

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**Dirty vehicle headlamps present a two-fold safety risk. In addition to drastically reducing visibility for the driver, they can also cause a dangerous level of glare for oncoming traffic, warn DEKRA's accident experts. Especially when drivers travel on wet and dirty roads, it is advisable to clean the headlamps more frequently.**

"Dirt on vehicle headlamps builds up gradually. As a result, drivers often don't notice the declining quality of the lighting in their field of vision for a long time," says Danijel Cakeljic, accident specialist at DEKRA. "Usually, drivers don't take action until half of the headlamp is already dirty and the range of its beams is significantly reduced." On wet and dirty roads, driving for around half an hour can already be enough to compromise the headlamps. "Reduced visibility increases the risk of the driver potentially not noticing objects on the road, such as a broken-down vehicle or crossing pedestrians, until it is too late to brake or swerve in time," Cakeljic emphasizes.

Another problem is the increased glare for oncoming road users. This can result from awkward scattered light effects if the diffusing or clear glass lenses of the headlamps are dirty, causing the low beam's channeled "cone of light" to shine in all directions. This can have a blinding effect on other traffic users.

"Dirty headlamps therefore present a two-fold risk. Especially when driving in wet and dirty conditions, it is necessary to pay more attention to the condition of the headlamps, and to clean them regularly," DEKRA's experts advise.

If the vehicle has a headlamp cleaning system, then the driver is relieved of this task. The system ensures improved visibility and therefore improved safety in case of adverse weather conditions. Naturally, this is only the case if the system is in good working order and filled with enough washer fluid.

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### **About DEKRA**

*DEKRA has been active in the field of safety for more than 90 years. Founded in 1925 in Berlin as Deutscher Kraftfahrzeug-Überwachungs-Verein e.V., it is today one of the world's leading expert organizations. DEKRA SE is a subsidiary of DEKRA e.V. and manages the Group's operating business. In 2020, DEKRA generated preliminary sales totaling 3.2 billion euros. The company currently employs more than 43,000 people in approximately 60 countries on all six continents. With qualified and independent expert services, they work for safety on the road, at work and at home. These services range from vehicle inspection and expert appraisals to claims services, industrial and building inspections, safety consultancy, testing and certification of products and systems, as well as training courses and temp work. The vision for the company's 100th birthday in 2025 is that DEKRA will be the global partner for a safe world. With a platinum rating from EcoVadis, DEKRA is now in the top one percent of sustainable businesses ranked.*