

## Peer-to-Peer Car-sharing An Introduction

Peer-to-peer car sharing is a different model to car sharing to car clubs. Car clubs have dedicated vehicles which belong to the car club and are shared with its members, whereas peer-to-peer car sharing allows private car owners to share their cars with their neighbours.

In the UK there are around 38.4 million cars, and the average car is parked at home for around 80% of the time<sup>1</sup>. Sharing cars that are already in your local community, could not only provide greater mobility choices, but also free up space for more green areas and improved public realms, as well as encouraging active travel and public transport use, leading to a healthier and greener community.

Peer-to-peer car-sharing is like AirBnB – car owners can put their cars on a platform which allows other drivers to hire it by the hour (or day). There are many benefits to this, including:

- Improved accessibility for people who don't currently have access to a car (particularly important in areas with poor public transport).
- For people who use their cars infrequently, they may be able to give up their own private cars and borrow their neighbours.
- Not owning a car encourages active travel and public transport use, but still gives access to a car when it is needed.
- By sharing cars, less space is needed for car parking so areas can be designed for people, not cars.
- It provides convenient access to a car without the hassle of owning one.
- The car owner can earn extra income.

For a list of all peer-to-peer platforms operating in the UK, visit our [website](#).

## How to share your car

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### **1. Sign up to your chosen car-sharing platform and list your car.**

There are a number of platforms in the UK, and all have different criteria (e.g. maximum age of car, maximum mileage, you have personal insurance for the car, etc) that you need to meet before listing your car. Many also offer technology that enables keyless entry and mileage tracking, which makes your car more appealing for renters as there isn't the hassle of meeting the owner in person, and it means you can rent your car while you are away.

### **2. Your car joins the network of cars available for renters to book.**

You can select when your car is available for bookings, set the price etc.

### **3. Your car is booked by a fully vetted renter.**

Renters must meet certain criteria such as age, maximum number of points on their licence etc. and a full driving licence check will be carried out by the platform.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.racfoundation.org/motoring-faqs/mobility#a5](http://www.racfoundation.org/motoring-faqs/mobility#a5)

**4. The renter collects the car, uses it for the journey and returns it to your home.**

Most platforms allow for keyless entry to your car using an app, or you can store the key in a key safe or even arrange to hand the key over to the driver. When the hire period starts, the peer-to-peer sharing insurance (via the platform) replaces your personal insurance, so the car is fully insured to be shared. The operator also provides breakdown cover.

**5. Earn extra income**

The peer-to-peer platform will take a small percentage, typically around 20 – 30%, but the rest of the hire cost goes to the owner.

## **How to use a peer-to-peer car**

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**1. Sign up to your chosen peer-to-peer platform.**

Renters need to meet certain criteria before signing up to the platform. This will include, for example, minimum age, drivers licence check and maximum points on the licence.

**2. Search for a car in your local area & book.**

By having lots of different vehicle types, you can choose a vehicle that best suits your needs.

**3. Use the car.**

At the time of your booking, collect the car by accessing it either via the app or collect the keys from the owner. Then use the car for the duration of your booking and at the end, return it to its home. You can use the app to request an extension to your booking, but this must be done before your booking ends and will depend on the availability of the car.

**4. The payment for the hire will be deducted from your account.**

The booking charge is generally split into three parts: the hourly (or daily) rate, a booking fee, and the insurance cost. The hourly fee will include a maximum mileage, if you go over this there will be an additional mileage cost. You will also need to refuel the car before returning it, or you will incur a further cost.

## **Further information**

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For more information about peer-to-peer car-sharing, contact us on [info@como.org.uk](mailto:info@como.org.uk) or check out our [website](#).