

## Myths and facts about car parking heaters

**Parking heaters offer drivers many advantages, but there are concerns from time to time about these retrofittable accessories. We explain:**

**Gilching - 21. November 2024** - In the cold months, many drivers long for a parking heater. It dehumidifies and heats the car interior before you set off, defrosts the windows and preheats the engine. This saves time and is easy on the nerves. Nevertheless, there are some recurring reservations about parking heaters. Here is an analysis of the most frequent points of criticism:

**1. A parking heater isn't worth it because it's no longer cold enough**

According to the German Weather Service, the average temperature in winter 2023/2024 was 4.1 degrees Celsius. That's cold, especially if you're sitting in a car without moving. Parking heaters not only offer advantages on frosty days. They also ensure a pleasant interior temperature at low plus temperatures and prevent the windows from misting up. This increases safety and comfort when driving.

**2. Parking heaters are too expensive**

To retrofit a parking heater, you need the heater itself, as well as hoses, cables, clamps and adapters. Then there is the labor. The device needs to be connected to the tank, the ventilation system and the battery, and the control panel needs to be integrated. This takes about a day. Where the device is installed in the car depends on the vehicle model. The price varies depending on the complexity of the installation. It starts at around 2,200 euros. A note: be careful when choosing the device! "Made in Germany" is definitely a sign of quality here and can prevent later problems with poor exhaust gas routing, burnt-through hoses or similar. Another tip: sometimes it's worth comparing several offers and asking about discount promotions.

**3. Front and rear window heating are sufficient**

Front and rear window heating defrost the windows, but only start after the ignition is switched on. Then you wait in the cold until the windows are clear. Leaving the engine running while stationary is prohibited and can be punished with a fine of 80 euros. A parking heater defrosts the windows before you start driving and heats the interior - legally and without wasting time. This makes it possible to drive without thick winter clothing, which can save lives in the event of an accident, especially for children, as a crash test by the German automobile club ADAC proves: [Driving a car with a thick winter jacket? Better not! \(adac.de\)](#).

**4. There is no parking heater for my car**

Many car brands already offer a parking heater ex works. However, it can also be retrofitted to almost any car. Manufacturers like the market leader Webasto regularly test the most common vehicle models and develop a variety of specific parts kits that qualified workshops can use to install the heaters. It is worth asking a certified specialist dealer - or even several. It's easy to do this using the dealer search function of the providers, like [www.standheizung.de](http://www.standheizung.de).

**5. Parking heaters consume too much fuel**

Modern parking heaters work very efficiently. They only consume a small amount of fuel, but in return reduce cold-start wear on the engine. A preheated engine burns fuel

## Press release

more efficiently. In an ADAC comparison test, the additional fuel consumption caused by the parking heater was very low. And that for the added value of a warm vehicle, increased safety and protection of the engine. (Source: <https://www.adac.de/rund-ums-fahrzeug/ausstattung-technik-zubehoer/ausstattung/standheizung/>)

### 6. **The parking heater drains the vehicle battery**

Modern parking heaters also use electricity very efficiently. They also have a protective function that switches the device off if the battery voltage falls below a certain level, so that it is always possible to start the car. The battery is recharged on the next journey. The rule of thumb is: driving time equals (previous) heating time.

### 7. **The engine is often no longer preheated as well**

Vehicle electronics are becoming increasingly complex. To ensure that retrofitted parking heaters do not interfere with the on-board electronics, manufacturers have now developed electronic solutions - like the Cronus - that can communicate with them. This means that engine preheating by the parking heater is possible in many cars without any problems.

### 8. **The vehicle's engine warms up after a short time**

It is true that engines in new cars warm up faster than they did 20 years ago. Nevertheless, sitting in a cold, damp car at first makes you feel cold and tense. It takes time for the interior to warm up comfortably. By the way: ADAC tests have shown that warming up while stationary is actually harmful to combustion engines. Source: <https://www.adac.de/verkehr/verkehrssicherheit/wetter/motor-warmlaufen-lassen/>

### 9. **Parking heaters are complicated to operate**

Manufacturers offer various options for controlling the heating: from the simple on/off radio remote control to the option of pre-programming through to a self-explanatory smartphone app. This allows you to choose according to individual preference.

### 10. **The manufacturer's warranty expires if a parking heater is retrofitted**

If you do not order a parking heater as an original accessory when you order your new car, you can have it retrofitted at a later date. Installation carried out in a German specialist workshop and according to the instructions of the parking heater manufacturer does not affect the warranty.

---

#### **About Webasto**

As a global innovative systems partner to the mobility industry, Webasto is one of the 100 largest suppliers to the automotive sector worldwide. In development, manufacturing and sales, the company focuses on roof systems on the one hand and on vehicle electrification on the other hand. The product range includes openable and fixed roofs, electric high-voltage heaters and batteries, as well as thermo management solutions. Among the customers of Webasto are manufacturers of passenger cars, commercial vehicles, and boats, as well as dealers and end customers. In 2023, the Group generated sales of around 4.6 billion euros and employed more than 16,600 people at over 50 locations. The headquarters of the company, which was founded in 1901, is located in Stockdorf near Munich (Germany). For more information, please visit [www.webasto.com](http://www.webasto.com)

#### **Media contact**

Webasto Group  
Alice Röhler  
Communications Manager  
Phone: +49 89 8 57 94-5 26 62  
E-mail: [alice.roehler@webasto.com](mailto:alice.roehler@webasto.com)