

SURVEY REVEALS SAFETY CONCERNS WITH CHILD SEATS IN HIRE CARS

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Consumers are worried that the child seats in hire cars are 'dirty and tatty' and not safe for their children.

The survey, conducted by YouGov on behalf of iCarhireinsurance.com, a leading provider of stand-alone excess insurance, reveals that over one in 10 consumers (12%) who have hired a child seat with their rental car (either in the UK or abroad) were concerned for the safety of the child in the car seat, with over a sixth (16%) of consumers said the child seat was 'dirty and tatty'.

Over a quarter (26%) of travellers were also surprised that no help was given by staff from the rental company to fit the child seat.

A shocking 37% of travellers were given no written instructions on how to fit the child seat in the car and 11% spent at least half an hour fitting the seat.

"We're stunned that customers are being provided with child seats that they consider substandard," said Ernesto Suarez, founder and Chief Executive of iCarhireinsurance.com. "What's even more concerning is that almost 40% of seats, irrespective of their condition, are being supplied with no fitting instructions; after all the best child seat in the world is still dangerous if it's not properly fitted.

"When you're spending around £60* to rent a child seat – as much as it would cost new - as a minimum it should be clean, in good condition and provided with clear fitting instructions. Parents are absolutely entitled to expect that their most precious and vulnerable passengers are comfortable, safe and secure."

Almost 1 in 10 (8%) of the consumers polled had hired a hire car with a child seat, which means that millions of car seats are being supplied every year by car hire companies.

iCarhireinsurance.com takes the hassle out of hire car insurance by offering stand alone policies accepted at all car and van rental locations worldwide that are fully comprehensive and significantly better value than those offered at the rental desks. An iCarhireinsurance.com excess insurance policy starts from £2.99 a day (compared with the average £17*[see Table 1] charged by the rental desks) or from £39.99 for an annual policy. It also includes cover for vulnerable parts of the vehicle such as tyres and windows which are frequently excluded by the rental companies' policies.

For more information please contact:

- Frances Knox, Frankly PR, Tel: +44 7850 470 123 or email frances@frankly-pr.co.uk
- Or Ben Woollorton, Sales and Marketing Director, Halo Insurance Services Ltd
Tel: +44 7739 719 570 or email ben@haloinsurance.com

***Cost to Hire An Infant Car Seat - Comparison Table.**

Research based on a 14 day hire period from Madrid Airport.

Car Hire Company	Cost of hire Infant Child Seat
Hertz	£57.54 max cost per rental
Avis	£62.74 max cost per rental (or £8.51 per day)
Budget	£60.34

You Gov Survey: All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2,058 adults, which 994 had hired a car in the UK or abroad. Fieldwork was undertaken between 18th and 20th April 2012. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+)

Table 1: Excess Insurance cost for UK resident renting a VW Golf class car in Barcelona (Barcelona Airport) for a three day rental from 06.04.2012 – 09.04.2012

	Excess	Only nil Excess Insurance	Daily Excess Cost	Rental Only Cost	Rental + Insurance	Excess % of Rental
Avis	€ 760	€ 70.46	(€ 23.49 daily) (Excess still £100)	€ 175.41	€ 245.87	40%
Budget	€ 1469	€ 45.42	(€ 15.14 daily)	€ 120.09	€ 165.51	38%
Europcar	€ 639	€ 84.08	(€ 28.02 daily)	€ 111.46	€ 195.54	75%
Hertz	€ 807	€ 65.91	(€ 21.97 daily)	€ 121.43	€ 187.34	54%
Sixt	€ 350	€ 52.18	(€ 17.39 daily)	€ 119.32	€ 172.44	44%
AVERAGE COST		€63.61	€21.20 or £17.58			

- Therefore average daily excess from the rental companies sampled is **€21.20 / £17.58**
- This compares with iCarhireinsurance.com excess insurance at £2.99 a day, which gives an **82%** saving.

Notes to Editors: iCarhireinsurance.com: Founded in 2009, iCarhireinsurance.com is a groundbreaking online insurance service that takes the hassle out of hire car, car club and van hire insurance. It offers a range of policies that are fully comprehensive, simple to understand, unbeatable value and accepted at all car and van rental locations worldwide.

iCarhireinsurance.com is a registered trading name of Halo Insurance Services Limited. Halo Insurance Services Ltd was founded by Ernesto Suarez, a leading insurance professional with 13 years experience in the industry.

Halo Insurance Services won Broker Innovation of the Year at the 2011 Insurance Times Awards.

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www.icarhireinsurance.com