



Buying a Van for your Business

How to choose a van for your business?

Buying a van is often more complicated than buying a car as there are more specifications to consider, especially if you are planning on using said vehicle for business purposes. One of the biggest benefits of owning a van is that they provide flexibility, which is why there are so many makes and models on the market.

So how do you choose a van for your business? There are a number of factors to consider including size, durability, cost, and, of course, customisations that will help streamline your business processes on a daily basis. Here, VanQuoteDirect looks at each factor in more detail:

Shape and Size

There are literally dozens of different types of vans, each of which comes with their own benefits. For example, a Panel Van is ideal for those who need to transport large items due to its large load area, however Crew Vans are beneficial to those who need to transport a number of people at once as they come with an extra row of seats.

Other popular van styles include the Flatbed, which has no roof or sides allowing for easy use with a crane, and Pick Ups which have a load area at the back and are therefore handy for loading, transporting and delivering large items quickly.

When it comes to choosing the shape of your van the first thing you need to think of is what you will be transporting on a daily basis, whether that's equipment, people or small consumer goods. Another thing to keep in mind is the amount of space you have at your business premises as it's no good having a van that takes up too much space!

Costs - Long and Short Term

We all know that you are going to have to part with some cash when purchasing a new or used van - however it's the long term costs that can really eat away at your business if you don't take them into consideration. For example, vans with high emission levels will cost you more in road tax, which can become a particular problem should you be buying a fleet of vehicles.

If you are looking to save money it may also be a good idea to check the miles per gallon your chosen make and model provides as it's likely you or your employees will be driving long distances a lot of the time. Vehicles that provide good miles per gallon ultimately provide lower fuel costs - in fact, if fuel costs are a particular deal breaker for you, you may want to consider investing in hybrid or electric vans.

Finally, you need to check the amount it will cost you to insure your new van or vans. If you have a poor driving history it may cost you more to be insured to drive a van, particularly if it is a larger model. If you choose to customise your van you may also have to pay more for your insurance, which brings us on to...

Customisations

Depending on the type of business you own, you may have to add customisations to your van in order to carry out your day to day work. For example, if you transport food you may need to install fridges and/or freezers into your vehicle. On the other hand, if you are transporting large, heavy objects such as wooden beams or furniture you may want to add harnesses and straps to make sure they stay in place during transport.

Don't forget that your van can also be used to promote your business, which is why you should consider adding customised livery that will represent your company and potentially even attract new customers. Once again, don't forget to make sure all of your customisations are covered under your van insurance otherwise if something happens you will have to pay to fix it yourself!

When it comes to choosing a van the number one priority is making sure you receive something that will benefit your business yet at the same time is within your budget. Remember, it's not just the initial cost of the van that you need to think about but also the running costs which all start to add up in the long term. However, if you choose wisely you will be able to find something that suits both your business and your budget to a tee.