

A Guide to Buying Fuel Cards



By Comparefuelcards.co.uk

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Introducing Comparefuelcards.co.uk.

Comparefuelcards.co.uk offers a 'one stop shop' for finding fuel cards on the web. With the ability to compare fuel cards *and* fuel card websites side by side, Comparefuelcards.co.uk is revolutionary in the information it provides to companies looking for fuel cards.

You can view detailed information on each fuel card including the size of the network, how many HGV friendly sites it offers and more. You can then view which websites have the best offers on each card i.e. card price, extra features etc...

Introducing fuel cards

The concept of fuel cards is an easy one, they work in a very similar way to a credit card and offer all the major benefits associated with them; the difference is, a fuel card gives companies the ability to restrict their employees purchases by limiting what they can buy and provides detailed transaction reports for more efficient monitoring of a companies fuel expenditure.

Most fuel cards offer similar features, the basic pros include:

- ✓ Personalised card details – the ability to print your own vehicle registration numbers/driver names on each fuel card.
- ✓ Invoicing by individual transactions - showing card usage by date, time, station and volume. – All invoices should come in a VAT approved format.
- ✓ Discounted price for fuel (applied to fixed price fuel cards only)
- ✓ The option to record mileage on your invoices

Most fuel card companies will also offer you very similar features:

- ✓ Your own account manager who looks after your fuel card account.
- ✓ Customer services available during office hours.
- ✓ The ability to cancel and order cards on your account
- ✓ Detailed invoices and reports upon request.

Knowing what you want...

There are *dozens* of different cards on the market in the UK; they range from fixed price fuel cards to pump price fuel cards, from named brand networks to multi brand networks. Here is a breakdown of these types of card:

Fixed price fuel cards

There are a wide range of fixed price fuel cards available on the UK market, ranging from single brand networks i.e. Esso Truck, to Multi branded networks like Keyfuels.

The term 'Fixed price fuel cards' applies to any fuel card where you receive a price that is applicable to some or all of the fuel stations on that particular network.

Fixed price cards are also called discounted price cards and generally offer you a discount off the national average pump prices. This price is generally changed on a weekly basis.

Pump Price fuel cards

There are a wide range of Pump price fuel cards available on the UK market, ranging from single brand networks i.e. Shell Fleet single network, to Multi branded networks like the Esso Multi fleet card.

Pump price cards generally offer larger networks to the fixed price cards; although you lose the benefit of a fixed weekly price you gain extra network coverage and ease of use!

Fuel is generally charged at the price displayed at the forecourt; however some cards charge a small premium for use of certain sites.

So how do you know which cards you are buying and whether there is a better deal out there for you? Using comparefuelcards.co.uk will enable to find the best deal available to you.

The first thing you need to do is work out exactly what you want before you start to compare the individual cards. Whenever you are shopping for fuel cards you need to have the answers to the following questions:

- Where are you based?
- Where do you travel?
- What vehicles do you have?
- How many are diesel/petrol?
- How much do I spend on fuel per month?
- How do you fuel your vehicles at the moment?
- Are there any petrol stations you use frequently/ prefer to use?

So, take a look at the questions above and write down the answers, you will need them later on – **trust me**.

You will also have to ask questions of your own in order to establish exactly which fuel card is best for you, below are a few examples of what you might need to ask:

- ✓ How much do the cards cost? A lot of cards have annual card fees; don't be put off by these! It is better to pay a small fee every year for cards that suit your needs than to get free cards that aren't quite as useful.
- ✓ How much will I pay for my fuel? You need to know whether the card you want is pump or fixed price and whether there are any other charges for your petrol/diesel.
- ✓ Where are my nearest sites? It is always important to have a site close to business, ask them how many sites there are on your chosen card within a certain radius and which one is closest to you.

Once all of these questions are answered, and any others you can think of, you can move on with the process of buying a fuel card!

Where to find what you want.

So we know what we want from a fuel card, but where do we start? Can we get a fuel card that lets us fill up at the local Tesco's as well as at the Shell in the next town? If so how much do I have to pay? And will I get the same benefits as someone spending 10 times as much as me?

There are lots of options out there so here is how comparefuelcards.co.uk can help you find the right fuel card.

My first tip is not to call round all the fuel card companies in the UK and ask them what they can offer me because I can guarantee you that they will all claim that they can offer you the cheapest, best value fuel card with the largest network. Maybe they can, but which one is telling you the truth? Plus there are over **70** of them and that may take you a while!

Comparefuelcards.co.uk offers 2 comparison charts to help you choose the right fuel card and the right website to get it from.

Step 1

OK, lets take the answers to the questions we posed earlier – lets look at them again to refresh our memory (see I told you they would be needed later).

- Where are you based? (use the site locator to see the sites available around you)
- Where do you travel? (again use the site locator or regional maps to see the sites available)
- What vehicles do you have? (The card comparison chart shows you the HGV friendly sites on each card – check out our best for.. section to see the cards that fit your vehicle type)
- How many are diesel/petrol? (if you use mainly diesel and spend around £1000 per moth Fixed price cards will probably be best – if not look at the pump price fuel cards)
- How much do I spend on fuel per month? (the same as above, generally fixed price fuel cards a beneficial to companies spending above £1000 per month)
- How do you fuel your vehicles at the moment?
- Are there any petrol stations you use frequently/ prefer to use? (if you prefer Shell, look at the best offers page for the Shell fuel cards)

The answers to these questions will be your guide to which fuel card is best for you. Take a look at our [Compare fuel cards online](#) page to see the cards side by side.

Look at the columns to see which card fits the answers to your questions best.

Helpful hint

You can also see the sites in your local area and by region by clicking on the site locator button next to each card!!!

Here is a screenshot of the Compare fuel cards online page as an example:

The screenshot shows the Compare Fuel Cards website interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons: Home Page, How to Fuel Cards, Compare Fuel Card Incentives, Compare Fuel Cards Database, and Fuel Card Site Locator. Below these is a banner for 'COMPARE FUEL CARD ONLINE' with sub-sections for 'FIXED PRICE FUEL CARDS' and 'PUMP PRICE FUEL CARDS'. The main content area features a table titled 'FIX PRICE CHART' with the following data:

Card Price	Network Size	BGV sites	Offers	More Info
Free-£0	1503 SITE LOCATOR	522 SITE LOCATOR	BEST OFFERS	MORE INFO
Free-£3	972 SITE LOCATOR	532 SITE LOCATOR	BEST OFFERS	MORE INFO
Free-£5	1274 SITE LOCATOR	471 SITE LOCATOR	BEST OFFERS	MORE INFO
Free-£3	906	312	BEST OFFERS	MORE INFO

Step 2

OK, you should now have chosen at least 1 fuel card that you feel is suitable for you, now you need to find the best offers for it.

Simply click on the best offers button next to the card of your choice to see a chart of all the sites that offer this card and their main features.

Click around on the different sites to see which offers you what you want, then go through to apply on the site that you choose.

Good luck and Happy Comparing!!!