



Your letters



Lights out

Which?, December 06, p9

So, the government plans to ban traditional light bulbs? I use energy-saving equivalents where I can, but some of my lights are controlled by dimmer switches, which are incompatible with energy-saving bulbs. What's more, energy-saving bulbs don't reach their full light output immediately, so may not be suitable in places where the light might be on for only a short time, such as in a toilet or a cupboard. And when it comes to converting electrical energy to light, energy-saving bulbs are still very inefficient compared with LED light sources, so I'd have thought LEDs would be a better option.

ALAN WHEATLEY, SKIPTON

WHICH? SAYS You do get more light per watt from LEDs than from an energy-saving bulb, which makes them ideal for battery-powered devices such as torches. However, the light from LEDs tends to be 'narrow' and one-directional compared with the 'glow' from a bulb, so they're not so great for home lighting. They may also need a different power setup.

PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON WRIGHT

You give us your comments on what you've read in *Which?*

Postage stamps online

Which?, January 07, p12

I thought Royal Mail's online postage stamps site seemed a great idea. But now that I've tried it, I feel it's seriously flawed and that not enough thought has been given to how it will be used. To give one example: you can't simply download a stamp of the required value; you first have to input the name and full address of each recipient. Royal Mail told me this is for 'security' reasons but couldn't give me a convincing

explanation of what the reasons are.

I had hoped to avoid having to queue up in the post office but, for me, the online site is more trouble than it is worth.

ALAN ASHMOLE, BY EMAIL

WHICH? SAYS For more of your comments on the postal service, see p77.

Supermarket fuel

Which?, December 06, p73

True – all fuels have to conform to British standards. But premium fuels, such as Shell or BP, contain performance-enhancing additives that cheaper fuels, including those sold by supermarkets, don't.

DON HARRIS, CORNWALL

WHICH? SAYS We've seen no proof that such additives are effective. In addition, carmakers design their engines to run on the lowest fuel specification, to prevent warranty claims. There is a difference between the various grades of fuel – 98RON premium unleaded petrol, for instance, contains more energy than 95RON standard unleaded

and can deliver more power in a suitably designed engine. But unless your handbook says otherwise, our advice is to stick to standard unleaded. We'll be looking at fuel/oil in August.

Le booze cruise

Which?, December 06, p19

Your 'Rip-off Britain?' feature mentions the well-known cross-Channel booze cruise. You might be interested to know that from our house near the Spanish border, we now witness its French equivalent, with people flocking to Spain for cheaper tobacco, alcohol and diesel.

TONY ANDERSON, BROXBORNE



Tony: bargains to be had in Spain

GET IN TOUCH

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■ letters@which.co.uk
Letters, PO Box 44,
Hertford X SG14 1SH

Next month in *Which?*

Supermarkets

Find out which online and discount stores are delivering the goods

Car security

A reformed thief explains how you can combat 21st-century car crime

Easter eggs

Results of our truly scrumptious taste test plus a look at excess packaging

Ticket agencies

We go behind the booth to find out what kind of ticket deals we're getting

Isas

We examine how the new tax-year rules will affect your investments

Cosmetic surgery

The risks to consider and questions to ask before undergoing treatment

Coming soon ✓ Family cars ✓ Builders ✓ Digital cameras
✓ Golf clubs and balls ✓ Power of attorney ✓ Vacuum cleaners

On test

In-car sat-nav

Latest models rated in this fast-growing market

Car tyres

Our Best Buys plus how to drive to save on wear

Light bulbs

Don't buy a light bulb until you've read our test results

Plus

✓ High chairs ✓ Fridge-freezers ✓ Dishwashers
✓ Electric showers ✓ Paint and wallpaper strippers



Out on
1 Mar