

Bentley to end production of W12 petrol engine in move to electric motoring

Bentley will end production of its famed 12-cylinder petrol engine in April next year, the luxury car maker has announced.

More than 100,000 examples of the W12 engine have been built at the company's factory in Crewe, [Cheshire](#) over the past 20 years.

The decision to halt production is part of the business's move to electric motoring.

Bentley chairman and chief executive Adrian Hallmark said: "Our progressive journey towards sustainable luxury mobility means making changes to every area of Bentley Motors.

"When we first launched the W12 back in 2003, we knew we had a mighty engine that would propel both our cars and the brand forwards at speed.

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"Twenty years and more than 100,000 W12s later, the time has come to retire this now iconic powertrain as we take strides towards electrification."

Jim Holder, editorial director of magazine [What Car?](#), described the W12 as "an icon of combustion engines, famed for

its power, smoothness, refinement and more”.

He told the PA news agency: “It should be remembered as one example of the peak of what can be achieved technically with combustion engines.

“But Bentley and its customers are acknowledging that we are entering a new environmentally conscious era, where outright performance and luxury can still be attained, but in a less consumptive manner.”

Bentley said it hopes to “retrain and redeploy” the 30 workers involved in assembling and testing W12s.

All Bentley’s models will be available with the option of a hybrid powertrain when production of the petrol engine is stopped.

The company has pledged that all its cars will be fully electrified by the start of the next decade.

[Sales](#) of new petrol and diesel cars and vans in the UK will be banned from 2030, with new plug-in hybrids outlawed five years later.

Volkswagen Group-owned Bentley made record sales last year.

The company, which dates back to 1919, said it delivered 15,174 cars in 2022.

The 4% increase compared with the previous 12 months was driven by demand in the Americas, [Europe](#) and Asia Pacific.