

## Avoid problems before they happen

Following these four simple rules could help you to avoid unnecessary repairs.

- Avoid parking your trailer on long grass - moisture could damage it.
- When you park up, wind the jockey wheel higher or lower so that the trailer doesn't sit level, and avoid standing it in rainwater on the road.
- When you park up, you must not leave a detached trailer on a public road.
- If your trailer is hitched up it must always be parked with lights on at night on any public road.
- Grease all the greasing points, plus brake cables or rods, and handbrake.

## What if you break down on a motorway?

**Remember it is illegal to stop on a hard shoulder except in an emergency.**

If an emergency forces you to stop, then follow our top five personal safety tips:

- Pull onto the hard shoulder and park as far to the left as you can.
- Turn on your vehicle's hazard warning lights.
- Leave the vehicle via the doors furthest away from traffic and stand as far away from traffic as is safe. Normally this is by the left-hand side.
- Contact us by using the emergency roadside telephone rather than a mobile phone, as this will enable our control centre staff to pinpoint your location.
- Do not attempt even simple repairs, wait in a safe place away from the carriageway and await recovery.
- Follow instructions from our staff.

If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will assist you.

### For more information please contact:

Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL):

**0300 123 5000\***

Email:

[ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

Website:

[www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/16293.aspx](http://www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/16293.aspx)

Driving with a horse or livestock trailer:

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Usingmotorwaysandroads/Breakdownsdrivingconditions/DG_185145)

[Usingmotorwaysandroads/](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Usingmotorwaysandroads/Breakdownsdrivingconditions/DG_185145)

[Breakdownsdrivingconditions/DG\\_185145](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Usingmotorwaysandroads/Breakdownsdrivingconditions/DG_185145)

[www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)

[www.caravanclub.co.uk](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk)

\*(Calls to 0300 numbers will cost no more than 5p per minute from a standard BT residential landline. Call charges from other landlines and mobile networks may vary, but will be no more than a standard geographic call and will be included in all inclusive minutes and discount schemes.)

### Safety at roadworks



**The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.**

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works' traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.

This leaflet is also available on our website at: [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk),

any enquiries regarding this leaflet should be sent to us at:

[ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk) or call **0300 123 5000**.

Please quote this HA Publications code: **PR33/11**

Highways Agency Media Service Dorking S110138 © Crown copyright 2011

Printed on paper from well managed forests and other controlled sources.

## Fit to tow

Is your trailer good to go?



## Keep your trailer ready to go

If you're taking to the roads with a caravan, trailer or horsebox, don't set out without a final safety and maintenance check, especially if you have left it standing for most of the year.



## Before you set off

Carry out a final maintenance check before you set off.

- Has the breakaway cable been attached correctly?
- Do you have adequate rear vision on both sides of your vehicle?
- Is the load correctly distributed and firmly secured?
- Are all the lights undamaged and working correctly?
- Are the tyre pressures correct and all tyres in good condition?
- Is the trailer correctly coupled to the towball or pin?
- Is the coupling height correct? It should be level.



*Before setting out, make sure your trailer is properly serviced and fit to be on the road. Your trailer should be given a regular service by a reputable dealer.*

## On the road

Driving with a loaded trailer will inevitably affect your vehicle's performance:

- Moving off needs more effort.
- It will take longer to slow down and stop.
- You need to take extra care when negotiating sharp bends.

### You need to check:

- That the vehicle and trailer are loaded securely and correctly distributed in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications.

## Are you adequately covered for recovery and breakdown?

Most recovery agents will not cover a trailer unless it's specified in your contract. Make sure you have specialist breakdown cover. Standard trailer insurance does not automatically include breakdown cover.



## Reversing with a trailer

- Make sure the area behind you is clear before reversing.
- Be especially aware of children and pedestrians.
- Try to get somebody to observe for you.
- Try reversing before setting off.

## Have you got the right licence?

A basic category B licence (post 1997) allows you to drive a vehicle up to 3.5 tonnes Maximum Gross Weight and to tow a trailer that weighs up to 750 kilograms Maximum Gross Weight, giving a Maximum Combination Weight of up to 4,250 kilograms.



Drivers who have got a category B licence are entitled to tow a trailer over 750 kilograms Maximum Gross Weight provided that the gross weight of the trailer does not exceed the unladen or kerb weight of the towing vehicle, and the maximum combination weight does not exceed a total of 3.5 tonnes.

## Speed restrictions

- Always keep within the legal speed limit.
- **30mph** limit applies on all roads with street lighting unless signs show otherwise.
- **50mph** applies on single carriageways unless signs show otherwise.
- **60mph** applies on dual carriageways and motorways.

**Note:** You must not travel in the far right-hand lanes of a motorway with three lanes or more.