

Trailer Towing



CHECKS BEFORE YOU TOW

Carry out the basic safety checks to make sure that your vehicle and the trailer, including the Gig, are safe and legal – **remember, the driver is responsible for loading the trailer:**

- The trailer is correctly coupled to the tow ball or pin
- The coupling height is correct
- The 7 or 13 pin cable and plug isn't damaged
- Tool kit including a jack, wheel brace, high-vis jacket, torch and safety signage is available
- You are properly insured

BREAKAWAY CABLE

Check that:

- The cable isn't worn or damaged
- There's enough slack in the cable so that it doesn't accidentally activate the brakes
- The cable won't drag on the ground when towing

WHEELS AND TYRES

Check that the tyres (including spares) on both the car and trailer:

- Don't have any cuts or bulges
- Are inflated to the manufacture's specifications for the load being towed
- Check that each tyre has a tread depth of at least 1.6mm
 - Across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tread
 - Around the entire circumference of the tyre
- Check that the wheel nuts and bolts are tightened to the correct torque
- Check that the mudguards are fitted to the trailer and they are secure

LIGHTS AND INDICATORS

Check that there is no damage to the lights and that they are working correctly

LOAD AND WEIGHT LIMITS

Check that:

- The trailer isn't overloaded
- The load is distributed evenly
- The load is secure
- The ratchet strap clamps are located on the nearside of the trailer

FIND YOUR VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMIT

- The vehicle manufacture's plate gives information about weight limits for your vehicle
- Check the vehicle handbook if a plate isn't fitted

The maximum weight of the vehicle and trailer combined includes passengers, Gig, other loads (e.g. oars and fuel)

WHEN DRIVING

- You must not drive faster than the speed limit for the type of road
- You must not drive in the right-hand lane of a motorway with 3 or more lanes