

Top Tips on Trailer Safety

Thank you for taking the time to read this top tips / Regular checks. This is not an exhaustive list, but purely sharing the key themes that we tend to see.

1. Tyre pressures and wear (we have seen a number of blow outs due to wrong pressures, ageing tyre walls or lack of tread). Also make sure the load rating of the tyres is equal to or above the Maximum Gross weight of the trailer.
2. Breakaway cable – Every trailer should have one (and a guide to ensure it operates correctly). Please ensure it is attached correctly too – Most vehicles should have a separate latching point, so that you do not loop around the towbar.
3. Trailer weights – Please don’t overload your trailer – its weight has been set in accordance with its design. Overloading can cause major structural issues. Please also ensure the trailer and its load or the MGW of the trailer, whichever is the greater is within the towing limits of the tow vehicle
4. Lights – Quick 2 minute check before you set off, could save a lot of trouble later.
5. Wheel nuts – please ensure they are tightened correctly
6. Trailer Hitch – If you have a braked trailer, please check the wear and movement of the hitch head. If you can move the head up and down or you can push the hitch head in by hand (whilst the brake is on) chances are your hitch and the braking system on your trailer are not working correctly. If you hear clunking noises or you feel a strong push / pull under braking please have your trailer checked!

Please note, all major trailer manufacturers would recommend that you have a trailer serviced at least once a year (even with light use). Some of the major plant / civil contractors have a 1-3 month rolling service schedule in place for their plant trailers due to the daily use and heavy life they lead.

It also worth noting that a number of Business insurers are also expecting to see evidence of a regular independent service schedule on Business Trailers.

Keep safe,

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