



Travelling Safely Checklist

Before loading and travelling your horse, it is important to check the horsebox or towing vehicle and trailer is safe. Our quick checklist can help you run through routine pre-travel checks that should be carried out before any journey with your horse.

Lights Check that all headlights, side lights, indicators and brake lights are functioning on the horsebox, towing vehicle and trailer	
Breakaway cables Ensure that the breakaway cables that connect towing vehicles and trailers have no signs of damage	
Tyres Check each of the tyres for signs of wear (including any spare tyres) on the horse box or towing vehicle and trailer. Ensure that the tyres are inflated to a suitable air pressure. Check your vehicle's handbook for guidance on minimum tyre tread depth and air pressures.	
Payloads Do you know the payload of your vehicle? Ensure the collective weight of all tack, equipment, passengers, dogs and horses does not exceed the maximum payload for your vehicle. Payloads can be found on weight certificates and in vehicle handbooks.	
Ramps and partitions Before loading, check the catches and springs on the ramp and partitions, as well as the condition of any rubber matting on the ramp. Check the partitions clip in properly and they can be set up to allow horses maximum room to balance. Current guidance is that horses should have 20cm each side and above the withers.	
Floors and walls Check the condition of the rubber matting, but where possible also check the flooring under the matting for rust or rotting depending on material, particularly in high load areas where the horse will be standing. Check the walls for any 'soft spots' which may indicate weakening (particularly if constructed from marine plywood). Also check for any protruding objects or loose fixtures (e.g. tie up rings).	
Windows and ventilation Ensure that the windows open to provide maximum ventilation. For any other ventilation (e.g. forced ventilation) or air conditioning systems, check they are working prior to travel. Where possible, travel with the rear top trailer doors open, as air is pulled in from the back of the trailer when travelling.	





Remember:

- 🐾 Assess whether your horse is fit enough for the intended journey, you can check out our [‘Travelling safely: is your horse fit to travel?’](#) page for more information.
- 🐾 Journey plan – do you have an alternative route or safe places to stop if necessary?
- 🐾 Internal vehicle temperatures should be within the thermoneutral zone for horses (temperatures where they can sufficiently moderate their own temperature) during the journey, which is 5-25°C. This is particularly important at hotter temperatures as often the temperature inside a horse box is greater than the external temperature. Consider whether you need a temperature and humidity monitor in your horse compartment.
- 🐾 Weather – check the weather before you travel. If it’s going to be hot, plan to travel at the coolest time of day and ensure you pack enough water and can factor in rest breaks, with shade, in long journeys. Consider whether your horse needs rugged at lower temperatures.
- 🐾 Make sure your vehicle/trailer are regularly MOT’d/serviced as appropriate
- 🐾 Take out suitable break down and recovery cover
- 🐾 Horses that have been trained to load and are comfortable with travelling are usually easier to transport – have you put the time and effort into training your horse to have positive associations with travelling?

