

PRE JOURNEY CHECK LIST

Before you start any journey with your horse, be sure to carry out these simple pre-journey checks, and make sure that your horse and other road users stay safe.

- **Windscreen** – check that there are no cracks, other damage or objects obscuring the drivers view – this includes sat navs and rosettes attached to the windscreen! Also check that your washer fluid is topped up and your washers and wipers are working correctly.
- **Head lights** – ensure that both dip and main beam are working and there are no cracks in the lens of the lamp unit. Don't forget the sidelights and on larger vehicles; top marker and side marker lights.
- **Brake lights and indicators** – ask someone to check that the brake light and rear indicators are working.
- **Tyres** – check the tread depth and the side walls for evidence of damage – we cover tyres in more detail in a separate section.
- **Floors and ramps** – check for signs of rotting or any damage – again we have a section dedicated to rotten floors.
- **Latches** – ensure all latches and bolts are well lubricated for ease of opening in an emergency but also that they are tight enough and will not fail
- **Number plate** – check that all number plates are clearly visible, clean and match the vehicle
- **And when towing a trailer**, it is important to remember to conduct these checks on both the towing vehicle and trailer.
- **Hitch** - ensure the hitch is correctly connected and secured onto the tow ball and that the breakaway cable is attached to a secure part of the towing vehicle chassis, independent of the tow ball – if yours is looped around the hitch, it's time to switch!

The breakaway cable is designed to deploy the handbrake and stop your trailer safely should a part on the tow bar or hitch fail and disconnect the vehicle from the trailer.

If your cable is only looped around the tow bar and this happens it will not deploy the handbrake and you could find your trailer overtakes you down the road or worse veers off the road with only other objects to stop it.