

TYRE CHECK LIST

1. **Check that your vehicle has is fitted with the correct tyres.** The type of tyres required for trailers are completely different than for cars and horseboxes.
2. **Check that the pressure for the tyre is correct.** This is easier to do than you think - you will find the required pressure printed in your manual. It is a good idea to keep a foot pump in your vehicle for emergencies, but make sure that the tyres are cold before checking.
3. **Check the tread depth.** The simplest way to check a tread depth is to use a tread gauge but you can also use a 20p coin. Most people know that they need to change their tyres when the tread depth approaches the legal limit of 1.6mm but they don't know how to check and why.

Place a 20p coin into the main tread grooves of your tyre in at least three locations. If the outer band of the 20p coin is obscured when it is inserted, then your tread is above the legal limit. If the outer band of the coin is visible, then your tyres may be illegal and unsafe and should be checked immediately by a qualified tyre professional.

The not for profit organisation TyreSafe explains how the tread helps to remove water from the contact point between the tyre and the road meaning you can steer, break and accelerate properly, keeping you safe in wet conditions.

4. **Check the condition of the tyre wall.** The tyres on vehicles which do low mileage - like horseboxes, trailers – need a more thorough check of the tyre walls for splitting, cracks or bulges.

This is because tyres perish over time, so even if your tyre tread is like new, the tyre could still be showing signs of deterioration from standing still for large periods of time which could pose a serious danger.

5. **Check the age of your tyres.** You can check the age of your tyre by reading the code on the tyre wall – as a precaution most tyre manufactures advise to change any tyres over 10 years old despite their appearance.

So next time you're at the yard, just take five minutes to inspect your tyres – particularly on trailers, as most horse trailers are not legally required to have a yearly MOT.

You might be surprised by what your find, or how old your tyres are!