

In partnership with



TRAVELLING SAFELY WITH YOUR HORSE OR PONY



Your guide to horsebox
and trailer safety



NFU Mutual

INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

STAYING SAFE ON THE MOVE

Transporting horses or ponies using a horsebox or trailer can be a stressful time for all of you. As part of our Horsebox Safety campaign, NFU Mutual, in partnership with The Pony Club, has created this booklet of checklists and guides to ensure you're more prepared and equipped to keep yourself and your horses safe whilst on the move.

YOUR QUICK CHECKLIST

- Both trailer and vehicle are safe and suitable for the journey.
- The floorboards are in safe condition and covered with matting or straw.
- Your horse or pony is prepared with everything it needs.
- You have enough water and hay for the journey, as well as any rugs you'll need.
- Your horse or pony is safely tied into the trailer.
- You have your horse's passport and details of your insurance and breakdown cover.



THE TRANSPORT

Before loading your horse, double check the entire trailer or horsebox to make sure it's in good condition, secure, and suitable for the journey.

- Check tyre pressures, test the brakes, check the floorboards and ramp for rot or deterioration.
- Ensure metal fittings such as body work, ramp hinges and springs have been regularly oiled and are secure and easy to operate.
- Make sure the floor is matted or covered with a suitable layer of straw or shavings.
- Check the horsebox and towing vehicle are taxed, insured and roadworthy.
- Remember that single axle trailers are often too small for transporting horses and ponies.
- In addition, be mindful of the legal payload of your horsebox or towing vehicle.

LOADING YOUR HORSE OR PONY INTO A HORSEBOX OR TRAILER

BEFORE LOADING

- Wear the correct clothing, including hat, gloves and boots.
- Check the trailer is completely stable.
- Prepare your horse or pony with what they need (see page 6 of this guide).
- Make sure there's someone else on hand should you need assistance.



LOADING

- Never ride a horse or pony into the trailer or horsebox.
- Use a leather head collar rather than a synthetic one as leather is more likely to break in an emergency.
- Avoid using baling twine as a tie ring as this can be difficult to snap – consider quick release devices.
- Never wrap the head collar rope around your hand.
- When transporting a single horse inside a double trailer with no partition, cross tie it to both sides.
- When transporting a single horse in a double trailer or box with a partition, use the right side as the horse will travel more comfortably on the crown of the road.
- Don't tie up the horse until the bar, breeching strap or ramp are in place, or the partitions are secure.

UNLOADING

- Untie the horses before lifting the front bars, just in case they try to rush out.
- If you're transporting more than one horse, unload the one nearest the ramp first. Keep it nearby and move the partition to prevent the second horse panicking and potentially getting injured.
- Never transport horses that are saddled up as saddles can get caught when unloading.



After a journey always muck out the horsebox or trailer and clear the drain holes. Allow the floorboards to dry to reduce the risk of them rotting.



WHAT YOUR HORSE OR PONY NEEDS

Travelling in a trailer can be bumpy, so make sure your horse or pony is wearing everything it needs to prevent injury. Depending on the length of your journey, you may want to consider the following:

- Tail bandage and tail guard.
- Leg protection such as travel boots or travelling bandages with knee boots and hock boots.
- Poll guard.
- Never transport a horse or pony in studs other than road studs.



Also remember to check the weather forecast at your destination so you can decide how many rugs to take.

PASSPORT

Don't forget you're legally required to take your horse or pony's passport with record of appropriate vaccinations along with you whenever, and wherever you travel.

REGULAR STOPS

Remember to take water and hay with you and make sure that your horsebox or trailer is appropriately ventilated.

If you're going on a lengthy road journey it's important to take regular breaks and stop every two or three hours to check on your horse or pony, offer them some water, and perhaps open the ramp or door to allow a flow of fresh air into the trailer. Younger and older horses may particularly struggle on a prolonged journey without sufficient breaks.



In the event of a breakdown, make sure you have your breakdown cover details and insurance policy number to hand, as well as any veterinary details you may need.



For more tips on travelling safely with your horse or pony visit
nfumutual.co.uk/horseboxsafety

Join in the conversation using **#HBSafety**



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To discover more ways we can help you to protect your horse or pony, speak to your local NFU Mutual Agent or visit **nfumutual.co.uk** to request an appointment. Alternatively, call us free from your landline or mobile on **0808 291 2864** and we'll put you in touch with your local adviser.



If you would like more information about
The Pony Club, visit **pcuk.org**



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