



Safety Alert - End of Season checks on trailers

Take care to ensure that your trailer is in good condition so that it will be ready for next season. Take care to check that: -

- The tyres have the necessary depth of tread, and the sidewalls are not damaged
- The coupling is adequately greased
- The wheel bearings have been cleaned and regreased, see the videos [here](#) and [here](#)
- The brakes are correctly adjusted, see the video [here](#)
- The brake linings are in good condition and not excessively worn
- The lightboard is in good working order
- The number plate is clearly visible and in good condition
- The structure is in good condition and that nothing is loose

If you are not confident to make the adjustments, then have them done professionally.

If you are not sure how to check your trailer, then arrange to take it to a National Trailer and Towing Association Trusted Workshop Member for the Free Safety Check. There is more information here [Free Trailer Safety Checks | NTTA](#).

If you are going to take your trailers out of use and park them for the winter, then take care not to apply the handbrake. This is particularly important if the trailer is parked outside. If the handbrake is left on, then the brake shoes can become seized to the cylinders in such a way that they will not release when the brake lever is lowered. When the trailer is moved then the seized brakes may overheat and damage the running gear. It would be better to leave the handbrake off and, if necessary, chock the wheels so that the trailer will not roll away.

Lightweight trailers, under 3,500 kg, are not required to have annual MOT tests but it is illegal to tow them if they are not in roadworthy condition.

There is information on how to check trailers prior to each use on the government website [here](#), this includes a video.

There is further information on checking trailers in the [Safety-Alert-check-your-trailer.pdf](#)

Look after your trailer, it will pay dividends in the long run

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[This Safety Alert is a safety guidance document. Please read our safety message and disclaimer.](#)