



# SAFE TOWING

## Did you know?

Towing with a van could:

- Mean you need different driving licence categories.
- Require use of EU drivers' hours rules and tachographs (although there may be exemptions you can use).
- Overload the towing vehicle beyond its legal and/or physical capabilities.



Vans with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of up to 3500kg can tow trailers up to seven metres long and 2.55 metres wide.

Trailers with a GVW of 751kg or more are required to be fitted with independent brakes.

No part of the load in the trailer should overhang by more than 3.05 metres, not exceeding a width of 2.9 metres and it all must be secure. If your load overhangs the trailer, please check the guidance on overhanging loads at **[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)**

Any trailer used must be subject to the same pre-use checks as the towing vehicle.

Trailers and couplings can differ, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

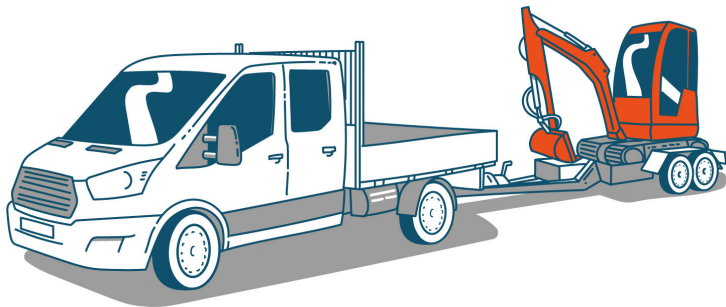
## Best practice tips:

Make sure you know how to hitch the trailer correctly and connect the emergency breakaway cable and make sure it is secure.



- Evenly distribute the weight of the load in the trailer.
- Make sure any load in your trailer is properly secured.
- The trailer being towed must display the same number plate as the van.
- Ensure the nose weight of the trailer is within the manufacturers recommendations of the towing vehicle.
- If the trailer starts to swerve, slow down gently.
- If the trailer is wider than the van, then towing mirrors will need to be fitted.
- There is a towing speed limit on motorways and on single carriageway roads, please check the speed limit guidance at:

**<https://www.gov.uk/speed-limits>**



The chassis plate or sticker fixed by the manufacturer specifying the maximum weights allowed is often found on a front door sill. The weight and size of trailer that you can tow depends on at least five key factors:

- driving licence categories
- the capability of the towing trailer
- the weight capacity of the trailer
- the brakes on the trailer
- gross weight of towing vehicle and size of trailer