

# Trailer Buying Tips

There are many things to take into consideration when buying a trailer, this article offers some sound advice to ensure you make the best possible purchase.





### AVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

If you plan to keep your trailer long term, always check the availability of spares for the trailer before you purchase. Can the manufacturer guarantee spares for your trailer in ten years time? Are parts and accessories for your trailer reasonably priced? How quickly can parts and accessories be sourced and how far do you need to travel to find them?

### SERVICING

Your trailer should be serviced regularly to ensure optimum performance. It is worth checking if your nearest service centre or workshop is within reasonable travelling distance of your home. Trailers, just like cars, must meet the legal requirements on tyres, brakes and lights.

### WARRANTY AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Ensure your trailer, if bought from new, comes with a warranty and check what it actually covers. You should also check that there is a customer support service available to deal with any queries or questions you may have.

### SECURITY

Invest in a coupling lock and wheel lock to deter thieves and for additional peace of mind and always insure your trailer.

### RE-SALE VALUE

It is useful to research the re-sale value of the trailer. If you are planning on part exchanging or selling your trailer in a few years, its depreciation and re-sale value should be taken into account before purchasing.

### TOWING

It may be worth testing a particular make or model of trailer before you purchase, to test how it feels to tow. There are various trailer hire companies that will offer daily or weekend trailer hire.

It is essential that you have the appropriate vehicle to tow your choice of trailer. You will need to refer to your vehicle manufacturers handbook for your vehicles towing capacity.

If you passed your driving test after December 31, 1996, you will not automatically have category B+E on your driving licence, which allows you to tow trailers up to 3500kg. Without this category you will be restricted in the weight of trailer you can tow without taking an additional test. Go to [www.dvla.gov.uk](http://www.dvla.gov.uk) for further details.

Do not overload your trailer - it is not only illegal but may affect the stability of towing and could compromise the safety of you and other road users.

### PURCHASING SECOND HAND TRAILERS

If purchasing a second hand trailer, it is recommended that you note the serial number of the trailer and contact the manufacturer to confirm that the seller is the registered keeper before you purchase, the manufacturer should maintain a database of registered owners to help reduce theft. The manufacturer may have been informed by the police or the original owner if the trailer has been stolen. For a charge, The National Plant & Equipment Registry (TER) can also cross reference the Police National Computer (PNC) for reported stolen trailers.

