

Horsebox and Livestock Trailer Check

Check the floor properly before every trip, and run the same pre-travel routine each time so the animal side is not left to memory.

A pre-travel check for a horsebox or livestock trailer, starting with the floor — which is what actually fails on these — and ending with the walk-around before you pull away.

ANIMAL TRANSPORT RULES ARE LOCAL

Rules on transporting animals differ by country, and often by whether the journey is connected with a business: journey times, vehicle and trailer standards, and any authorisation or certificate of competence are all set locally. Check what applies to your journey before you load.

Trailer / horsebox	Registration or ID	Date
Towing vehicle	Journey	Checked by

FLOOR — CHECK THIS ONE PROPERLY

☐ Mats lifted and the whole floor seen dry, in daylight	
☐ Floor probed for soft spots, especially at the back and along the sides	
☐ Underside inspected from below for rot, corrosion and failed sealant	
☐ Cross-members, bearers and floor fixings sound	
☐ Rubber matting flat, with no lifting edges or exposed fixings	

RAMP AND DOORS

☐ Ramp boards, hinges, springs and any lifting aid	
☐ Ramp catches and jump flaps engage positively on both sides	
☐ Groom's door opens from inside as well as out	
☐ Rear doors, breeching gates and their hinges and pins	

PARTITIONS AND THE INSIDE

- ☐ Partitions, breast bars and breeching bars secure and quick to release
- ☐ Tie rings and their fixings sound — a tie ring should hold, or break safely
- ☐ No sharp edges, protruding bolts, splinters or torn lining anywhere
- ☐ Interior lights work and are protected
- ☐ Bedding down as you intend to travel, and the surface not slippery

VENTILATION, WATER AND THE JOURNEY

- ☐ Vents and roof lights open, and set for the weather on the day
- ☐ Airflow not blowing directly onto a travelling animal
- ☐ Water containers filled, secured and reachable at a stop
- ☐ Hay nets tied high enough that they cannot be trodden on when empty
- ☐ Journey time, rest stops and a breakdown plan agreed before loading

BEFORE YOU PULL AWAY

- ☐ Coupling seated and locked; breakaway cable or safety chain connected
- ☐ Jockey wheel raised and clamped; handbrake released
- ☐ Tyre pressures, condition and age, including the spare
- ☐ Wheel nuts tight; hubs not running hot after a short run
- ☐ All lights and indicators checked with someone watching

Signed

Print name

Date

Notes and anything specific to yours