



PURCHASE OF SECOND HAND TRAILERS

Please be careful if buying a second hand trailer.

If you purchase any item and it is found to be stolen, the legal owner is entitled to have it returned to them. You could end up thousands of pounds out of pocket and without a trailer - Don't let this happen to you.

- Always meet the seller at their home address. Do not meet in laybys or car parks. If you do have to try to recover your money, you have somewhere to start.
- The seller should know their way around the trailer, with all its features and small problems.
- Beware of someone 'selling it for a friend', who does not appear to have an interest in horses.
- Ask to see proof of ownership such as their original sales receipt, owner's manual or ask to see the Certificate of Ownership.
- Check to ensure all the details refer to that trailer. An honest seller will not be offended.
- The most important physical item to check is the manufacturer's unique registration plate, normally found on the chassis close to the hitch. It is highly unlikely that this will have fallen off during normal use of the trailer. If there is no plate, walk away. There will always be another trailer to look at. Trailers with missing or damaged plates can often turn out to be stolen.
- Contact the manufacturer with the chassis and VIN numbers and see if they have a record of the owner. They may also be aware if it has been reported stolen.
- Consider checking the chassis and VIN details with TER (The Equipment Register) and other companies such as Immobilise. If there are Datatag markings, check with them that the trailer has not been reported stolen.
- Ask for a receipt with the seller's address, name and contact details, plus the trailer information with price paid and chassis, VIN number.
- Whilst there is a market for stolen trailers, there will be thieves attempting to steal them. Once you have bought your trailer, see our advice sheet with tips and advice on keeping it secure.