



SAFE LOADING

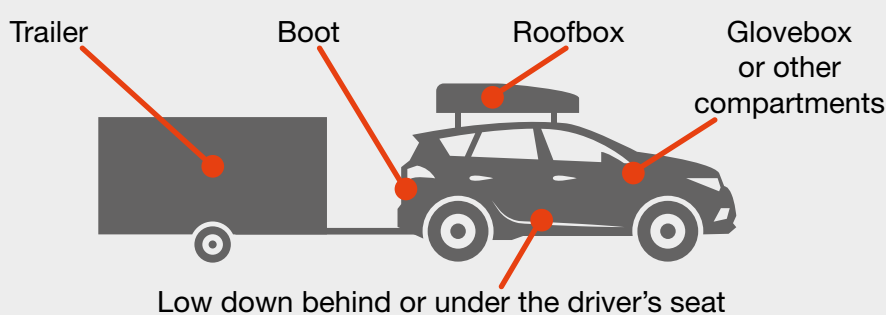
Did you know?

- **Overloading your car is an offence, punishable with a fine (usually between £100-£300) and three points on your driving licence.**
- **Stopping distances could be greater for a vehicle loaded with heavy items.**
- **Vehicles that are overloaded use more fuel than usual.**

Loads in cars can include shopping, pets, equipment, bags, samples, basically anything that isn't a person.

Heavy loads are likely to affect a car's handling causing it to be much less responsive.

There are five places which are good to use for carrying items:



Best practice tips:

- Placing heavier objects in the vehicle first helps keep the centre of gravity lower which is better for the vehicle's handling.
- Use anchor points fitted in the luggage compartments.
- Where possible, the parcel shelf should be kept clear.
- Don't load items above the level of the top of the rear seats.
- If seats are folded forwards for heavy or long items, use additional restraint items so that the items don't move forwards.
- Avoid carrying heavy items on the rear passenger seats as they will have enough force to break through the back of the seat in a frontal impact collision.
- Loose items should be safely packed away to stop any movement while cornering, preventing impact to the driver or passengers and damage to the interior of the vehicle.
- Where space is tight, consider using a roof-rack or roof-box. These are very useful for carrying lighter but bulky items and will leave more room inside the car.



Safety reminders:

- Passengers shouldn't be asked to carry/hold items. If the airbags deploy in a collision, the objects could be projected back towards them causing severe injuries or, if in the rear, launched forwards on impact hitting those in the front of the vehicle.
- Bottles and cans (including anti-freeze) should be securely stored away to prevent them from rolling underneath the pedals.
- If the vehicle is fitted with a spare wheel, make sure it can be easily accessed.