

Motorway Rules Facts List



Motorway Signs	
1	Countdown markers show the distance to the next exit
Speed limits	
2	The speed limit for cars, buses, minibuses, coaches and goods vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes, on a motorway is 70 mph
3	Cars towing a trailer or good vehicles over 7.5 tonnes can drive up to a limit of 60 mph
4	Variable (or changing) speed limits can help reduce traffic from bunching up on a motorway
Hazards	
5	If you have to slow down suddenly, switch on your hazard warning lights
6	If you're driving on a motorway and there is a red cross showing above every lane, you must stop and wait. Don't change lanes and don't try to continue any further along the motorway
Breakdown	
7	It is important to check your vehicle before a long motorway journey because continuous high speeds increase the risk of your vehicle breaking down
8	If you get a puncture or breakdown and have to stop on the hard shoulder, it's best to use the emergency telephone to call for help, the emergency services can find you easily
9	The location of the nearest telephone is shown by an arrow on marker posts at the edge of a hard shoulder
10	If you have to walk to find their nearest emergency telephone, walk in the direction shown on the marker posts. There are marker posts every 100m
11	When using the emergency telephone, face the oncoming traffic. This way you can see what is approaching you and nothing takes you by surprise
12	If you have to use your mobile phone to call for help, check your location from the nearest marker posts

13	If you breakdown and can't get to the hard shoulder, switch on your hazard warning lights
Entering and Exiting	
14	Once you are on the motorway you should look much further ahead than you would on other roads. Remember you are travelling much faster and you will approach hazards much quicker
15	Immediately after joining a motorway you should stay in the left-hand lane to give you time to get used to driving at higher speeds
16	When you are joining a motorway from a slip road you should match your speed to the traffic in the left-hand lane and then filter into a safe gap
17	If you are in the left-hand lane of a motorway and there is traffic trying to join from a slip road, adjust your speed or change lane, but only if you can do so safely
Contraflow	
18	When there is a Contraflow system on a motorway, expect lower speed limits and narrower lanes
19	When you are approaching the Contraflow, get in lane early
20	When you are going through a Contraflow, keep a good distance from the vehicle in front
Lanes	
21	Vehicles towing trailers are not allowed to use the right-hand lane of a three-lane motorway
22	You should always travel in the left-hand lane unless you're overtaking
Reflective Studs	
23	White studs are between the lanes
24	Green studs are between the left lane and the exit or entrance
25	Amber studs are between the central reservation and the right lane
Other	
26	Motorways mustn't be used by pedestrians, cyclists, motorcycles under 50CC, and powered wheelchairs or mobility scooters
27	Traffic officers operate on motorways and some primary routes. They are authorised to stop and direct anyone on the motorway
28	Traffic officers work in partnership with the police at incidents, they don't have enforcement powers

29	When driving up a steep hill, you may find a lane especially for the larger, slower moving traffic, like lorries. This is called a Climbing or Crawler lane