

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

- 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

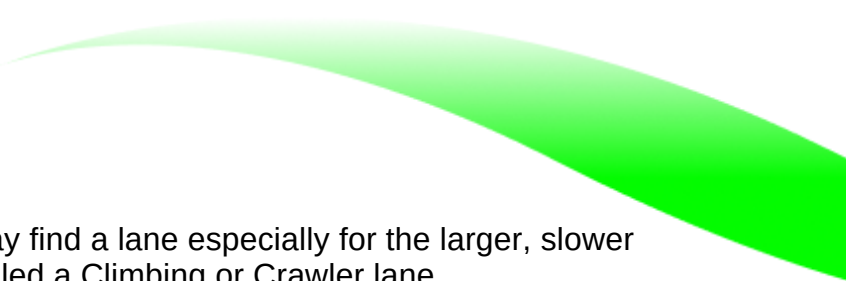
- 21 Vehicles towing trailers are not allowed to use the right-hand lane of a three-lane motorway
- 22 You should always travel in the left-hand lane unless you're overtaking

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

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- 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