

DON'T BE A

**SPACE
INVADER™**

STAY SAFE · STAY BACK



Keeping a safe distance from the vehicle in front gives you time to react and stop if you need to, so we can all get where we want to safely.


Driving too close to the vehicle in front is dangerous, intimidating and causes accidents, especially when driving at speed.

Tailgating is a factor in **1 in 8** casualties on England's motorways and major A roads.

Tailgating is an offence of driving without due care and attention,

carrying a minimum £100 fine and penalty points and in some cases more severe penalties or court appearance.

It's easy to tailgate unintentionally. You may be cut-up or misjudge the speed of the vehicle in front, and in turn leave an unsafe gap.



Thinking time **Braking distance** **Safe stopping distance**

Tailgating is where the gap between you and the car in front is too close for you to be able to stop safely, if the vehicle in front suddenly brakes.

The Highway Code says you should “allow at least a **two-second gap between you and the vehicle in front on roads carrying faster-moving traffic**”.

The two seconds are made up of the time needed for thinking and stopping.

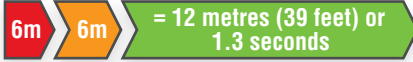
The gap should be at least doubled on wet roads and increased further on icy roads or when visibility is poor.

Dependant on your vehicle type, a greater distance may be necessary.

Thinking and stopping times

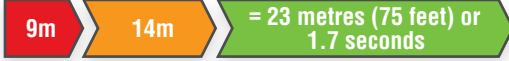
Never get closer than the overall stopping distance.

20 mph
(32 km/h)



Thinking distance

30 mph
(48 km/h)



Braking distance

Minimum distance required to stay safe on dry roads

40 mph
(64 km/h)



Average car length = 4 metres (13 feet)

50 mph
(80 km/h)



60 mph
(96 km/h)



70 mph
(112 km/h)



If you are being tailgated, just drive normally and do not speed up. If able, signal left and move over when it is safe to do so, so the vehicle behind can overtake.



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Highways England creative job number BRS20_0092

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363