

How to Prepare Your Vehicle for Transport or Recovery

Learn how to prepare your vehicle for transport or recovery in London. Follow these expert tips for a smooth and safe collection by a recovery service.



Getting your vehicle ready for transport or recovery isn't just about booking a service—it's about preparation. Whether you're using a [car transport London](#) service or need emergency assistance, knowing how to prepare your car can help ensure a smooth and safe journey.

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Why Preparing Your Vehicle Matters

Preparing your vehicle isn't just about courtesy—it's essential for safety, efficiency, and avoiding delays. Recovery drivers and transport professionals depend on your preparation for proper loading and transit.

Whether you're booking [vehicle recovery London](#) or scheduled car transport, a well-prepared car helps:

- Prevent loading damage
- Speed up handover and recovery times
- Avoid additional charges
- Ensure legal and insurance compliance

Gather Important Documentation

Before your vehicle is picked up or towed, ensure you have relevant paperwork ready:

- Vehicle registration document (V5C)
- Valid photo ID (passport or driving licence)
- Proof of ownership if requested
- Recovery or car collection and delivery London booking confirmation

For some types of non runner car transport London, you may also need customs or vehicle inspection documents.

Clean the Vehicle Inside and Out

It may seem unnecessary, but cleaning your car helps you inspect its condition and ensures accurate documentation. Clean windows and interiors make the vehicle safer and quicker to move. A clean vehicle also prevents items from being left behind or mistaken for debris.

Remove Personal Belongings and Accessories

Your transport or recovery provider is not responsible for lost personal items. Remove:

- Documents, wallets, electronics, or valuables
- Loose dashboard accessories or phone holders
- Detachable spoilers or bike racks
- Anything hanging from rearview mirrors

This is especially important when using a [car recovery London](#) service, where sudden movements could shift loose items.

Check Fluids and Leaks

Make sure your vehicle isn't leaking oil, coolant, or fuel. Excess fluid may cause transport issues or pose hazards to the transporter. For vehicles still drivable, top up necessary fluids like coolant or brake fluid before handover.

If you notice any leaks before collection, inform the [vehicle recovery](#) team in advance so they can bring appropriate equipment (drip trays or containment tools).

Disable Car Alarms and Anti-Theft Devices

Most recovery and transport vehicles involve tilting, winching, or jostling. An active alarm may be triggered unnecessarily, leading to delays. Deactivate alarms or notify the driver of any auto-security systems.

Failing to disable alarms may cause battery drainage or delays, especially during [car transport](#) that spans several hours or overnight journeys.

Inspect Tyres and Battery Condition

Ensure all four tyres are properly inflated to facilitate loading. A flat tyre makes winching dangerous or impossible. If your battery is dead, inform the recovery company ahead of time so they bring the necessary equipment.

Low tyre pressure or a dead battery may incur extra charges during [nationwide car transport](#) bookings, as recovery teams often operate under tight schedules.

Note Existing Damage and Take Photos

Before handover, inspect your vehicle thoroughly. Document dents, scratches, or rust spots with time-stamped photos. This protects you in case of disputes and helps the recovery driver mark damages clearly before transport.

Provide the driver with a checklist or walkaround summary if possible. This is especially helpful when transporting valuable or vintage vehicles.

Extra Steps for Non-Runner or Damaged Vehicles

If your car is not drivable or was involved in an accident, preparation is even more important. Here's what to do:

- Ensure wheels are not locked (if possible)
- Inform recovery company of any towing difficulties

- Provide exact location and any access issues
- Clear debris around the vehicle

Whether it's a driveway or roadside, make it easier for the [vehicle transport](#) crew to hook the car safely without added risk.

Prepare for Handover or Collection

On the day of transport or recovery:

- Be available at the agreed time or arrange a trusted representative
- Have all keys (ignition, wheel lock, etc.) ready
- Walk the driver around the vehicle
- Review the collection form or delivery documents

Ask for confirmation once the vehicle is safely loaded. Some companies also offer photo confirmation or delivery tracking—especially useful for long-distance jobs.

What NOT to Do Before Vehicle Recovery

- Don't hide damage or omit mechanical faults
- Don't leave pets or plants inside
- Don't attempt to drive a severely damaged vehicle onto a truck
- Don't assume everything will be handled without preparation

Being transparent and ready ensures a smooth recovery or transport experience. A well-prepared car not only protects your asset but also respects the professionals handling your vehicle.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be present during vehicle collection?

Ideally, yes. But you can authorise someone else to handle the handover. Just inform the transport provider in advance.

Can I leave personal items inside the car?

It's strongly advised not to. Most recovery services aren't liable for lost or damaged personal belongings left in the car.

What if my car doesn't start at all?

That's okay. Inform the provider so they bring winching tools. This is common for non-runner or breakdown recoveries.

Should I keep fuel in the tank?

Yes, but only a small amount is necessary. Too much fuel adds unnecessary weight for long-distance transport.

How do I get a quote for car recovery or transport?

Use the [car recovery online quote](#) tool to receive a fast, no-obligation estimate.

Final Thoughts

Proper vehicle preparation is a vital part of any successful **transport or recovery service**.

Whether your car is in perfect condition or has mechanical issues, following the above steps ensures a safe, fast, and stress-free process. For reliable recovery or transport, trust LMV Recovery's expert services across London and the UK.

Need help? Get your [instant online quote](#) or [contact our team](#) today.