

Life Cycle Guide

Bike Trailers

Choosing the right trailer

Trailers provide a great way to take one or two children along for the ride. Children can be accommodated in a trailer from a very early age so allow you to take a baby with you before they are able to use a child seat. Some models allow a newborn to be transported although special accessories are required. Many trailers convert easily to a buggy and can be used without the bike. You can often get some luggage - spare nappies, picnics etc in the trailer too.

Trailer or child seat?

If you are planning on cycling any distance, trailers are more comfortable than a child seat. Children can fall asleep, admire the view, play together, eat, drink and even do some colouring on your journey. They also have the advantage of being weatherproof - protecting them from wind, rain and even too much sun!

Trailers are becoming more popular and are now common at venues where cycle hire is offered. This means you can try a trailer before investing in one.

Deciding on which trailer to buy will depend on your budget, how many children you have/intend to have, how frequently you plan to cycle and the type of cycling you plan to do i.e longer trips

Design and build

General construction is from steel or alloy tubing with a fabric (generally canvas/cordura type material or heavy duty nylon) body. Quality trailers are designed with a roll-bar to protect your children in the unlikely event of a collision. Windows are provided so the children can see out and some windows will have roll up screens with a mesh behind for hot days.

The trailer will attach easily to the towing bike by means of a secure fastener which couples to the back of the bike frame. Some trailers have quite elaborate towing hitches. Most trailers fold almost flat, quickly and easily without the need for tools, for easy storage and transporting.

The drag of a trailer is noticeable on even the slightest hill, so the bike needs a low bottom gear and good brakes are essential for descending.



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Trailers

Expect to Pay...

Trailers range from about £100 - £1200 depending on features and quality. Expect to pay more for lighter weight models and additional features.

To save money you might buy a second hand trailer, however, be careful to check the quality of before purchase. Don't buy anything that looks worn and has signs of damage, cracking or has missing parts.

Where to buy...

Try your local independent bike shop to start with. Alternatively you will be able to buy one online.

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