

"Carspreading" is on the rise - sometimes called "autobesity"



W 2073mm or 6ft 10in
H 1483mm or 4ft 10in
Kerb weight 1630kg



W 2218mm or 7ft 3in
H 1765mm or 5ft 9in
Kerb weight 2295kg



W 2209mm or 7ft 3in
H 1867mm or 6ft 2in
Kerb weight 2770kg

	VW Golf	BMW X5	R Rover	Higher BMW X5	Higher R Rover
	size	size	size		
Width mm	2073	2218	2209	7.0%	6.6%
Width ft	6.80	7.28	7.25		
Height mm	1483	1765	1867	19.0%	25.9%
Height ft	4.87	5.79	6.13		
Frontal area sqft	33.09	42.14	44.39	27.3%	34.2%

Width including the mirrors - both are near 5.75 inches or 7% wider than a VW Golf.

Height - a BMW X5 is 19.0% higher than the VW Golf and a Range Rover 25.9% higher.

Frontal Area - a BMW X5 is **27.3%** larger than the VW Golf and a Range Rover is **34.2%** larger. These increases are significant because the larger frontal size of an SUV or 4x4 vehicle approaching you on a relatively narrow urban street or on a narrow country lanes can be daunting and in some cases makes passing difficult.

	VW Golf	BMW X5	R Rover	Higher BMW X5	Higher R Rover
	weight	weight	weight		
Kerb weight kg	1346	2295	2770	70.5%	105.8%
Kerb weight factor	1.00	1.71	2.06		
Fourth power	1.00	8.45	17.94	745%	1693.7%
Gross weight kg	1800	2950	3480	63.9%	93.3%
Gross weight factor	1.00	1.64	1.93		
Fourth power	1.00	7.21	13.97	621%	1297.1%

Fourth power law (also known as the fourth power rule)

It's a rule of thumb which states that the stress on the road surface and structure caused by a motor vehicle increases in proportion to the fourth power of its axle load. This law was discovered in the course of a series of scientific experiments in the United States in the late 1950s and was decisive for the development of standard construction methods in road construction. [Link](#) & [Link](#)

Looking at the comparative weights and the analysis above you can see how the fourth power numbers are significantly higher with heavier cars. A BMW X5 is 7.21 and the Range Rover 13.97 higher than a VW Golf.