



### High Visibility Vest

It is a legal requirement to carry a high visibility vest with you in European countries, so that you can put it on and be seen by other drivers if you breakdown. It's also wise to get one for each passenger you may have in the car and ensure the vests are kept near at hand in the passenger compartment, not in the boot.

**Only £5.00 at Halfords.** [Link](#)

### Breakdown safety kit

Different European countries have their own laws regarding what safety kit you need to carry in your car, but whether the items are specifically required by law or not Victor Smith feels it's clear sense to have them in your car - and near at hand too - so they can be easily reached and put on before stepping out of the car next to heavy traffic.

### Essentials to have in your car

If you are planning to drive in France by car, do make sure you have your **Hi-Visibility Vests** in the car. The law requiring them in France has existed since 1998. They must be worn when stepping out of the car. The driver must have one and it's advised that for all passengers have one too.

**Red Warning Triangles** can be placed on the road to alert other drivers if you have a breakdown or emergency. They are a legal requirement in most EU nations, although the number required differs from country to country. Placing a warning triangle 45 m (147 ft) behind a stranded car will give an approaching vehicle probably barely a 2 seconds alert of the danger ahead. So you must move to a safer place promptly and then make any calls on a mobile phone.



### Red Warning Triangle

Warn other road users when you have broken down with a Red Warning Triangle. You should place your warning triangle on the same side of the road as your vehicle, and at least 45 metres (147 feet) behind it. It has folding legs so it can be positioned to be up and visible to oncoming vehicles as an emergency alert.

**Only £8.00 at Halfords.** [Link](#)

### Where to keep them so they are near at hand?

The High Visibility Vest in its compact packaging can be squeezed into the gap between the inside edge of the driver's seat and the prop shaft casing where it provides a very visible location and reminder it's there whenever you get in the car - the bright yellow hi-vis colour is there! The Red Warning Triangle is a larger item and will often be kept in a box in the luggage area with rapid access to it via a rear hatch or boot lid.

### Stand well clear of the car and any Armco barrier nearby

When the driver and any passenger(s) have got out of the stranded vehicle move rapidly on to a safe area on the verge away from of the road and well clear of any Armco of similar barrier. Why? – well Victor Smith recalls when visiting the 24 Heures du Mans event some years ago with several V8 members they made their way on a practice day to view the cars racing down the Mulsanne Straight. Standing near the Armco barrier a marshal came over urging them to move back and explained that as an energy absorbing structure if the Armco were to be hit by a car at high speed the Armco would break up, thrash about and injure them. Good advice – keep away from the Armco!