

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Ensure the towing pole is stored and maintained in a dry condition in the storage bag provided. Do not use if the product is damaged, distorted, corroded or missing any parts.

Check the handbooks of **both** vehicles to ensure they are equipped with suitable towing eyes and for any special instructions for use with vehicles with automatic transmission.

Once you have identified the towing eyes, ensure they and the surrounding area are strong enough for towing. Do not use if there is any damage or corrosion in this area.

Ensure the towing eyes on both vehicles are a similar height from the ground.

Please note, to be used on a public highway, both the towing and towed vehicles are required to comply with all applicable legislation (eg. insurance, road fund licence etc.)

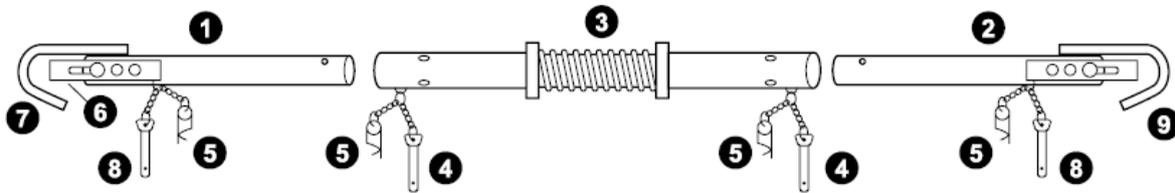
The ignition switch of the towed vehicle must be switched on to release the steering lock and to provide power to the brake and indicator lights. If the lights are not working, a trailer lighting board must be fitted to the towed vehicle.

When the vehicle's engine is not running, power assisted brakes and power steering (where fitted) will continue to work, but will require **much** greater effort by the driver to steer and stop. Also note, without a running engine the use of lights and indicators on a vehicle will drain the battery. **If you are unsure about any aspect of how to tow safely, you should consider using a professional recovery service.**

WARNING:

- **NEVER TOW A VEHICLE THAT DOES NOT HAVE WORKING BRAKES.**
- **NEVER TOW A VEHICLE IF THE STEERING LOCK CANNOT BE UNLOCKED OR THE BRAKES ARE LOCKED ON.**
- **NEVER TOW AN UNMANNED VEHICLE USING THIS TOWING POLE.**
- **BOTH DRIVERS MUST HOLD A SUITABLE FULL DRIVING LICENCE TO TAKE PART IN TOWING A VEHICLE.**

ASSEMBLY AND FITTING INSTRUCTIONS



- Remove the contents from the storage bag and check that all parts in the diagram above are present and the product is undamaged.
- Each vehicle's towing eye may be horizontal or vertical. Fit the two hook sections (1) and (2) into the centre section (3) and rotate them to fit onto each vehicle's towing eye. Align the holes in sections (1) and (3) and sections (2) and (3) accordingly. Retain them using the two pins (4), and secure them with the clips (5).
- Position the vehicles so that the distance between the towing eyes is approximately 1.8 metres.
- Slide back the hook gate (6) and allow it to rotate to provide clear access to the hook. Fit the hook (7) through the towing vehicle's towing eye. If the towing eye is horizontal, fit the hook with the opening facing downwards wherever possible as shown in the diagram above.
- Push the hook gate (6) as far forward as possible against the towing eye of the towing vehicle to minimise the free play between the hook and the eye and retain in position with pin (8), secure with clip (5). Check the articulation of the towing pole and do not use unless it can articulate by at least 40 degrees either side of the straight ahead position and by 20 degrees above and below the horizontal.
- Repeat for the towed vehicle. If needed, carefully move the towing vehicle to adjust the distance between the vehicles.
- Always ensure all of the pins (4 and 8) are secured through their ends using the clips (5) provided.
- Always ensure the "ON TOW" notice (printed on the storage bag) is placed in the rear window or another clearly visible location at the rear of the vehicle being towed.

TOWING ADVICE

The towing pole is suitable for towing cars and light vans with a gross weight of up to 2 tonnes on a level surface. The pole has a maximum distance between the hooks of 1.8m.

Ensure the towed vehicle is out of gear or in neutral, the wheels are free moving and both the hand and foot brakes are disengaged.

With a driver in each of the vehicles, ensure the front wheels of the vehicle being towed are in line with the direction of pull and slowly pull away. While towing, the towing pole must remain parallel with the direction of travel. If the towing eyes are on different sides of the towing and towed vehicles, the towed vehicle will drive out of line with the towing vehicle. Avoid sharp angles between the vehicles.

To allow for angular movement of the vehicles during towing, the towing pole must be free to articulate on the towing eyes of both vehicles. The towing pole should be parallel with the road surface and the towing eyes of both vehicles should be at a similar height.

The driver of the towed vehicle must be able to see the rear lights of the towing vehicle.

Driving speeds must be adapted for towing and vehicles must never be towed with this towing pole at speeds above 15mph (25kph).

When towing, both drivers must exercise great caution whilst accelerating, braking and manoeuvring. Although the damping spring helps absorb shocks, both drivers should avoid sudden manoeuvres, acceleration and sharp braking and keep all vehicle movements slow and steady.

After use, inspect the towing pole for signs of damage, wear or stress and if found, replace the product. Store as directed.

In the unlikely event of a defect occurring please contact our Helpline.

Office hours are 9am – 4pm. Outside of office hours or during peak times you will be directed to an answer phone. Please leave your name, a brief description of your enquiry and your number. One of our operators will attempt to contact you back as soon as possible.

Helpline Telephone Number 0208 391 6767 or e-mail helpline@hilka.co.uk

Alternatively check the Frequently Asked Questions on our website www.hilka.co.uk/faq.php

NOTE:

These important safeguards and instructions cannot cover all possible conditions and situations that may occur. It must be understood that common sense and caution are factors, which cannot be built into any product. These factors must be supplied by the person using this product.