Do motorhomes, motor caravans or campervans have to be fitted with seat belts? All new motorhomes built since 29 April 2012 must be type approved to a European safety standard and so must have seat belts fitted to all seats designed to be used while the vehicle is in motion.

If your motorhome was built before 29 April 2012 the following apply to you:

Do seat belts need to be fitted to the front of a motorhome? Yes.

Do seat belts need to be fitted in the living area of a motorhome? Seat belts are not legally required to be fitted to seats in the back of motorhomes but we recommend you consider fitting and wearing them for your own safety. Note that where seat belts are fitted they must be worn.

Is it legal to have lap belts in a campervan? Yes. There is no law against the use of lap belts i.e. two point belts, however three point belts are safer unless the seat is side facing.

Can I fit a three point seat belt to a side facing seat? It is not recommended because a seat belt is not as effective in such a position. Two point safety belts or lap belts may be used on a side facing seat.

Is it legal to sit on a side or rear facing seat when the motorhome is moving? Yes. However we strongly recommend a side-facing seat should not be used while a vehicle is in motion as it does not provide the same level of protection as forward or rearward facing seats.
Can you fit a seat belt to a seat which was never intended to be used when the vehicle is moving? No.

Are all seat belts checked during roadworthiness test? Yes. Any seat belt retrofitted must be certified by an automotive engineer and a report presented at test.

Who fits and certifies seat belts? Only type approved seat belts can be installed and this can only be done by the seat belt manufacturer.

Can children be carried in rear seats of a motorhome? Yes, provided they are wearing the proper child restraint or child car seat.

Can children travel in a side-facing seat? It is not illegal for a child to travel in a side-facing seat in a motor caravan, however, for their safety we would not recommend it. It does not offer the same level of protection.

Can children use lap seat belts? All children under 150 cm in height or 36 kg in weight must use a child restraint system (CRS) suitable for their height and weight. If they exceed these limits then legally they can wear a lap belt however, for their safety we would not recommend it as it does not offer the same level of protection.

Can seat belt extenders be used in the rear of a motorhome as seat belts are quite short for fitting child car seats? Road traffic regulations do not specifically prohibit the use of seat belt devices such as extenders, metal buckles or plastic clips. However, they should not damage or otherwise interfere with the safe operation of the safety belt system. In addition they should be approved to a recognised standard and designed for use by an adult.
What are the regulations fitting two child car seats in the rear of a campervan?

• There is no law prohibiting the use of multiple child car seats in the rear of a camper van provided they are fitted correctly and suitable for the child’s height and or weight.
• In addition they must be fitted to a seat which is designed to be used while the vehicle is in motion.
We recommend using either forward or rear facing seats as side facing seats do not offer the same level of protection. For further information see our Child Safety in Cars webpage here.