

# MOTORWAY DRIVING TIPS



**1** Keep to the speed limits shown on the signs. Variable speed limits help to steady the flow of traffic and reduce stop-start traffic jams.

**2** Keep left unless overtaking – it's a simple rule of the Highway Code but one which some drivers don't always follow.

**3** Never drive in a lane closed by a red X – this sign indicates that a lane is closed to traffic and that there could be a hazard up ahead.

**4** A hard shoulder is always identified by a solid white line - do not use it if there's a red X or if no speed limit is displayed.

**5** If the hard shoulder is being used as an extra lane, use the designated emergency areas for emergencies and call for assistance.

**6** If your vehicle experiences difficulties exit the motorway at the earliest opportunity. If you break down, put your hazard lights on immediately.

*Following these rules on motorways and smart motorways can help to keep traffic flowing and avoid dangerous situations before they develop - helping all road users to have a safer, smoother journey.*

# NEVER DRIVE IN A LANE WITH A RED X



Below are some top tips to help keep you and other road users safe on motorways and smart motorways:

- Never drive in a lane closed by a red X – this sign indicates that a lane is closed to traffic and could mean there's an obstruction up ahead.
- A hard shoulder is always identified by a solid white line - if there's no speed limit displayed above it, or a red X is displayed, do not use it except in an emergency.
- If you are caught using a lane marked with a red X, the minimum penalty is a £100 fine and three points on your licence. More serious penalties will apply under some circumstances, or you could end up in court.