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Tough - yet vulnerable

Rameder clarifies what needs to be done in case of an accident with a towbar

Of course, you should not use your towbar as battering ram. But many people seem to put their trust in its passive protective function. For example, when a careless driver comes too close to your car at the traffic light or during the parking process. The hard steel hook can handle a lot without causing external damages. Under the holding shell, however, things can look entirely different. **Rameder**, at www.rameder.eu, is the largest European supplier of towbars and knows what needs to be done after having this type of accidents.

When using a towbar, usually only the massive ball head is visible. Depending on the design - detachable, pivoting, rigid - this is bolted directly to a crossbar under the vehicle, or connected via a plug connection to a flexible receptacle. If there is a rear impact, all connected components will feel the force of the collision. Thus, fractures, cracks and deformations can occur practically everywhere.

Even after minor accidents, a towbar should, therefore, be examined by an expert. Also, the functionality of the electrical system has to be checked, because sockets and cables could also have been impacted. For higher impact speeds or unfavourable accident angles, the towbar should even be replaced as a precaution measure. This applies even if no damage is externally visible: because unnoticed hairline cracks or a displaced geometry can be a security risk when pulling a trailer weighing tons. A material test including accurate measurement would alternatively be technically possible but would cost too much. Replacing just individual components is also not recommended as a repair - only an intact electrical kit should be left on the vehicle.

To obtain an identical towbar, it is sufficient to read the information on the nameplate and to contact the **Rameder** Europe-hotline at: **+49 367 34 / 35 343** or the regional phone support teams. Another option is the intuitive search available at www.rameder.eu.

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