



Trailer Safety Checklist

- Cell phone and chargers
- Emergency contacts, numbers, instructions for handling emergencies
- Truck and trailer registrations, driver's licenses and insurance.
- First aid kit (Check that contents are updated)
- TOOL KIT (and extra hardware for boats)
- Maps (in addition to GPS)
- Pads and pens. Sharpie pen for marking equipment and labels.
- Large trash bags. Paper towels, hand cleaning solution, toilet paper
- High Visibility safety vests, rain gear
- Food and water
- Chock blocks
- Half sheet of plywood, ½" or thicker
- Block of dense wood or a cinder block
- Handsaw or metal blade hacksaw
- Spare trailer tire and correct size lug nut wrench
- Extra Straps (at least eight) and bungee cords, zip ties
- Rope
- Extra chain
- Extra padding
- Electrical tape and other tapes
- Extra light bulbs fuses and lenses
- Extra red flags, road flares, hazard triangles, large orange cones
- Large flashlight (and new batteries)
- Step stools for loading
- WD 40 /silicone spray
- Extra shoes, heel ties and bow balls
- Empty five-gallon gas tank
- Jack, tire pressure gauge
- Five gallons of water for drinking (or for radiator)
- Fire extinguisher

On the Road, Circle the Trailer

- Check for loose or shifted equipment at every gas and food stop.
- If odd noises and vibrations occur, stop and check immediately.
- Wiggle each stern and bow and see if straps have loosened.
- Check buckles and straps on each boat for loose ends.
- Check the wiring harness on each boat for loose ends or speakers potentially hitting other boats.
- Scan boats for damage
- Make sure red stern flags are secure.
- Check the load in the bed of the trailer and truck.
- Check all lights.
- Make sure hitch is fully attached and cotter pin is in place.
- Make sure chains are in place.
- Be sure emergency brake is still attached.
- Check sway bars and load bars are still attached.
- Check mirror alignment.

Hitching Up

1. Check to be sure ball and hitch are compatible in size.
2. Grease ball to protect hitch and ball.
3. Adjust trailer hitch height to ensure trailer is level.
4. Back ball of vehicle under trailer, is trailer's coupler high enough?
5. Make certain coupling on tongue of trailer is open to receive ball.
6. Lower the jack on trailer, is hitch ball seated firmly into coupling?
7. Close and secure coupling
8. Make sure to insert the cotter pin.
9. Cross, attach and lock safety chains to the truck.
10. Connect electrical harness.
11. Attach emergency brake to bolt or eye hooks.
12. Retract jack all the way up or pivot out of the way.
13. Check boats, straps, the load in the trailer, and bed of the truck.
Is everything secured? (Oars, riggers, seats)
14. Remove the wheel chocks and place in the trailer.

Trailer Height

Post in towing vehicle

Trailer Information:

Date of trip _____

Destination _____

Maximum Height clearance needed for trailer:

Loaded: Clearance _____ Feet _____ Inches

Measure from ground

Level trailer, height of tallest skeg

Empty: Height, no boats on top _____