



Trailer Transport, Equipment Tie-Downs & Load Securement The Ultimate 1 Page Cheat Sheet for Maximum Safety

- ALWAYS do a thorough walk-around inspection of your trailer BEFORE loading.
- ALWAYS verify maximum towing capacity of the vehicle that will pull the trailer AND maximum load capacity of the trailer BEFORE loading and transporting.
- Each trailer should be equipped with a minimum of:
 - **5 chains with hooks** on each end
 - **5 binders** for tightening each chain
- Each chain should:
 - Be a minimum of 14 feet long
 - Have hooks on each end with the same grade or Working Load Limit (WLL) as the chain
 - NOT be permanently attached to a fixed point on the trailer. You should pick attachment points each time based on the size and positioning of the equipment and the location of the d-rings on the trailer.
- When transporting heavy equipment of any kind (backhoe, skid steer, front loader, tractor, etc.), a **minimum of 4 chains are required** to secure the equipment to the trailer.
- Heavy Equipment & Vehicles weighing 10,000+ lbs. MUST be secured & tied down at a minimum on all 4 corners!
- Ideally, when securing heavy equipment to a trailer, you should have **2 chains attached to the front** of the equipment and **2 chains attached to the rear** of the equipment with approximately **45 degree angles** running from the attachment points on the equipment to the attachment points on the trailer.
- For heavy equipment with a boom or articulating arm (like an excavator or backhoe), a **5th chain** is required to **tie down the boom** to the floor of the trailer.
- Almost all heavy equipment has manufacturer designated attachment points for tie downs. The universal symbol for these attachment points is shown in the bottom right corner of this sheet. These are the recommended spots to attach your chains to on the equipment when available.
- The DRIVER of the vehicle that is towing a trailer is ultimately responsible for load securement and safety.
- It is highly recommended that when towing heavy loads for more than a short distance that a driver pull over within the first mile or so and re-check that the equipment or load hasn't shifted and that the chains are still tight. Adjust if needed at this time before continuing to transport.
- Always remember that the most likely time for a heavy equipment rollover is when loading or unloading it from a trailer. For this reason, only experienced operators should perform this function, always very slowly and carefully, and operators should always be wearing their seatbelt.
- **Use G70 or G80 chains and hooks** with at least a **7,100 lb. Working Load Limit (WLL)** and you should be in good shape for most situations. Usually the **5/16- or 3/8-inch size chains** will work. Chains should be a minimum of 14 feet in length or longer.
- Each chain must have a separate tightening method (binder). 5/16 - 3/8-inch **ratchet binder** load binders work with 5/16 inch or 3/8-inch G70 transport chains or G80 alloy tie-down chains for a working load limit of 7,100 pounds.



Use this type of ratchet binder to tighten chains.