

# Trailer Inspection Checklist

Side 1 of 2

## STEP 1

### Check Vehicle and Route Capacities

Total weight of the loaded trailer must not be more than the towing vehicle's capacity.

Check route clearance and load restrictions

**Make sure that the towing vehicle and trailer hitch device are adequate for the total load weight, especially when towing with a smaller vehicle, such as a pick-up**



## STEP 2

### Check License and Registration

Trailers must have a license plate and registration unless they are:

- Not designed to move people or property
- Not designed for highway use
- Unable to maintain a speed of at least 40 mph



## STEP 3

### Check Hitch Coupling Devices

Ensure that:

- Locking device has a safety pin to keep the ring secured to the hook or coupler secured to the ball
- Trailer tongue and coupler are not bent or damaged
- Towing vehicle hitch is not bent or damaged
- Tow vehicle bolts, nuts, other fasteners are tight



## STEP 4

### Ensure Correct Hitch Connections

When connecting trailer to towing vehicle:

- Vehicle and trailer hitching device types match
- Ball and coupler are the same size
- **Pintle hook and ring are of adequate capacity for total load weight being towed!**



## STEP 5

### Check Safety Chains and Brake Cable

When connecting safety chains:

- Be sure there are two chains
- Be sure chains are crossed in an "X" pattern when attached to the towing vehicle
- Be sure chains do NOT touch the ground

See other side for Inspection Items 6-10



# Trailer Inspection Checklist

Side 2 of 2

## STEP 6

### Check Electrical Connection

Ensure that all trailer lights are working correctly

- Tail lights
- Turn signals
- Marker lights



## STEP 7

### Check Brake Connection

For trailers equipped with brakes, test:

- For secure connection
- Brakes at less than 5 mph to make sure they work
- Parking brake

Ensure emergency break-away cable is properly rigged and doesn't drag the ground



## STEP 8

### Check Trailer Tires and Suspension

- Check tire tread: at least 2/32 of an inch in two treads side-by-side and measured at three equally-spaced spots around the tire.
- Check tire pressure
- Check springs and shackles for breaks or cracks



## STEP 9

### Check for Visibility

Trailer must have:

- Working brake lights, marker lights, and turn signals
- Reflectors on all corners and rear of trailer

Check towing vehicle rear and side view mirrors for good visibility when the trailer is connected



## STEP 10

### Make Sure You are Ready to Go

Other things to check include:

- Chocks removed and stored
- Items and load on trailer properly distributed and securely in place; secure gates, latches, tie-downs
- Ensure trailer jack is raised
- Load is properly balanced on trailer

