

# Trailer Transport, Equipment Tie-Downs, and Load Securement

## The Ultimate One-Page Cheat Sheet for Maximum Safety

**ALWAYS** perform a thorough walk-around inspection of your trailer BEFORE loading.

**VERIFY** the 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:

- Five CHAINS with hooks on each end
  - Recommend minimum of 3/8", G70 rating, Working Load Limit (WLL) 6,600 pounds
  - 14' length minimum
  - Hooks must have same Working Load Limit as chain
- Five RATCHET BINDERS for tightening each chain
  - Designed for 3/8" chain
  - Working Load Limit of 7,100 pounds minimum

**SECURING HEAVY EQUIPMENT** (backhoe, skid steer, front loader, tractor, etc.):

- Four chains and four binders minimum, one on each corner of the equipment
- 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 attachment points when available.
- Chains should be at 45 degrees running from the attachment points on the equipment to the anchor points on the trailer.

**SECURING A BOOM OR ARTICULATING ARM** (like an excavator or backhoe)

- A separate (fifth) chain is required to tie down the boom or bucket to the floor of the trailer.

**NOT APPROPRIATE:**

- NO chains permanently attached to 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.
- NO "cam-over" or "snap-lever" chain binders. Similarly, NO cheater bars, pipes, etc. Use only ratcheting chain binders.
- NO nylon straps/ratchets for securing heavy equipment. They can be used for small items only.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE!** The driver of the vehicle is ultimately responsible for load securement and safety.

**STOP AND CHECK!** When towing heavy loads for more than a short distance, the driver should pull over within the first mile or so and check the load to verify that it hasn't shifted and that the chains are still tight. Adjust if needed at this time before continuing transport.

**LOAD AND UNLOAD CAREFULLY!** 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.



Always secure chains to D-Rings on trailer when available



Use this type of ratchet binder to tighten chains.



Universal symbol for manufacturers recommended equipment tie-down point