

PRE-DEPARTURE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Before driving, make sure your vehicle maintenance and trailer maintenance are current. This is very important because towing puts additional stress on the tow vehicle.

- ✓ Check and correct tire pressure on the tow vehicle and trailer, including the spare tire.
- ✓ Make sure the wheel lug nuts/bolts on the tow vehicle and trailer are tightened to the correct torque.
- ✓ Be sure the hitch, coupler, draw bar and other equipment that connect the trailer and the tow vehicle are properly secured and adjusted.
- ✓ Make sure the safety chains are properly criss-crossed and connected, not touching the road but with enough slack to make turns.
- ✓ Check that the wiring is properly connected; not touching the road, but loose enough to make turns without disconnecting or damaging the wires.
- ✓ Make sure all running lights, brake lights, turn signals and hazard lights are working.
- ✓ Verify that the brakes on the tow vehicle and trailer are operating correctly.
- ✓ Ensure the breakaway system lanyard is connected to the tow vehicle but not to the safety chains or ball mount.
- ✓ Check that all items are securely fastened on and in the trailer.
- ✓ Be sure the trailer jack, tongue support and any attached stabilizers are raised and locked in place.
- ✓ Check load distribution to make sure the tow vehicle and trailer are properly balanced front to back and side to side.
- ✓ Check side- and rear-view mirrors to make sure you have good visibility.
- ✓ Check routes and restrictions on bridges and tunnels.
- ✓ Make sure you have wheel chocks and jack stands.



National Association of Trailer Manufacturers

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