

Transportation and Trailer Pre-Trip Checklist

This is a simple guideline and may not include all safety measures related to your specific mode of transportation and hauling.

	Wheel Bearings - Be sure to have bearings serviced annually, or 12,000 miles, regardless of mileage due to possible moisture buildup. It is also important to carry a spare wheel bearing in case of premature failure.
	Check lug nuts on wheels. Wheel nuts and bolts should be torqued before first use after each wheel removal. Check and re-torque after the first 10 miles, 25 miles, and again at 50 miles, then periodically thereafter.
	Tires - Look for dry rot, uneven tire wear, overall tire wear and damage, etc. Be sure to replace tires every 3-5 years regardless of mileage.
	Tire Pressure - Do not forget to check the pressure of each tire, including the spare tire and the inside tire on dual wheels. Improper tire pressure is responsible for most towing problems.
	Hitch - Ensure that it is locked on the ball and that the correct sized ball is being used.
	Safety Cables / Chains - Check to see that the cables/chains are securely connected.
	Electrical Connection - Make sure the trailer's power supply cord is securely attached to the power point on the towing vehicle.
	Breakaway Brake System - Ensure that the cable integrated with the emergency breakaway brake system is attached to a point on the towing vehicle with enough slack so that it will not become taut when turning or maneuvering the trailer.
	Emergency Battery - Check to ensure that the battery is fully charged.
	Trailer Lighting - Check lights for the turn signals, brakes, along with running and perimeter lights.
	Brake Controller - Test the electric trailer brakes to verify that they are operating properly.
	Trailer - Check the trailer, inside and outside, for any hazards (sharp edges, wasp nests, exposed wiring, soft places in floor, etc.) prior to loading any animals.
	Doors - Secure and latch all trailer doors. Place a secondary latch (i.e. carabiner, snap hook, etc.) to prevent accidental opening.
	Headlights - Drive with headlights on (even in daylight hours) as a safety measure to increase visibility.
	Fluid Levels - Check the towing vehicles fluid levels and replenish any that are below recommended level. Towing puts increased stress on the radiator, brakes, and transmission.
	Mirrors - Make sure the rear and side view mirrors are properly adjusted and you know how to use them to recognize the blind spots.
	Drive down the driveway, and before you turn onto the main road, get out and check over everything again. Something you overlooked may make itself apparent by then.
	If you happen to stop somewhere and leave the towing vehicle and trailer unattended for any length of time, check everything all over again. Someone could have tampered with the towing vehicle or trailer.