

## Trailer Safety

### Inspection:

- Current warrant and rego.
- Check bolts, fasteners, hitch, tyres, lights and brakes prior to towing.
- Inspect the trailer frame regularly to ensure there are no cracked welds, loose bolts, or other issues.
- Inspect the tyres carefully especially after storing the trailer for a while. Material breakdown is the #1 root cause for failure of trailer tyres.
- Set tyre pressure appropriately for the load. Full tyre inflation pressure is needed for a full load.
- Inspect the spare tyre inflation too and make sure it's in good condition.

### Preparation Each Trip:

- Before connecting, check the ball and coupler size match. Also check the rated capacity for both.
- Check the wear on towball – is the diameter correct?
- After connecting, double-check the hitch to be sure it is secure.
- **Adjust safety chain length so they do not drag the ground.** It needs to be long enough to reach the hitch but also clear the ground. **DO NOT TWIST** safety chains to shorten them.
- If a trailer has two chains, cross them. This creates a bed for the tow bar to rest in if the trailer becomes detached and stops it from digging into the ground.



### Tips for Loading:

- Don't overload the trailer! Check the capacity limits and stay within them.
- Be aware of the towing limits of the pulling vehicle and the hitch components. Follow manufactures guidelines on capacity for all the parts.
- Don't overload the tyres. Tyres on trailers often have a lower capacity than the axle they are mounted on.
- Secure the load so it won't shift or move while in transit.
- Keep a low centre of gravity with the load.
- If loads are tall, make sure everything is securely fastened to the trailer. Realize that wind loading can be very strong.
- Distribute the load on the trailer evenly for stability.
- Trailer should be loaded so that 10% – 20% of the gross trailer weight is on the tongue (hitch).
- If you have a problem with swaying or instability, re-distribute the load.

### Take Responsibility:

- **You are responsible** for the load in your trailer. Flying items can cause significant damage, injure or kill others. **Be sure things are secure!**
- Double check tie-downs, tarps, ropes, etc. to be sure nothing will be flapping in the breeze or dragging the ground.
- Stop and double check the load, the tie-downs, and the overall situation after driving a few kilometres. The load may shift with the vibrations and bumps of the road.
- If the trailer has high sides or a tall load, avoid travelling when significant cross winds are present.
- Allow added distance for acceleration and braking.
- Take corners wide to avoid hitting the trailer tyres on a curb. The longer the trailer, the more space it needs.
- Drive with a greater awareness of what is happening around you on the road. Any maneuvering requires more time, more care and more space when a trailer is attached.
- When towing, **you assume a larger responsibility.** Please drive carefully.

**IF IT'S NOT CONNECTED OR LOADED CORRECTLY IT COULD COST SOMEBODY THEIR LIFE**



**CONNECTED CORRECTLY IT MAY SAVE YOURS**



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