

Trailer Pre-Trip Inspection Checklist

Tires

- ☐ Check tire pressure (cold) and inflate to maximum PSI.
- ☐ Inspect all tires for cracks, bulges, worn tread, or dry rot.
- ☐ Make sure you have a good spare tire, inflated properly.
- ☐ Inspect lug nuts and make sure they are tight.

Hitch and Coupler

- ☐ Inspect hitch ball and coupler for tight, secure fit.
- ☐ Ensure latch is locked down and secured with a safety pin or lock.
- ☐ Make sure safety chains are crossed underneath and attached securely.
- ☐ Check that breakaway cable is properly connected.

Lights and Electrical

- ☐ Test brake lights, turn signals, and running lights.
- ☐ Inspect 7-pin connector or wiring harness for damage.
- ☐ Test electric trailer brakes if equipped.

Load and Weight

- ☐ Confirm cargo is properly loaded and evenly distributed.
- ☐ Secure all cargo tightly using straps, chains, or nets.
- ☐ Check tongue weight is about 10 to 15 percent of trailer weight.
- ☐ Ensure total trailer weight is within towing vehicle capacity.

Brakes and Suspension

- ☐ Check for proper brake function.
- ☐ Listen for unusual noises while moving slowly.
- ☐ Check leaf springs, u-bolts, and shackles for damage.

General Safety

- ☐ Bring tire repair kit and portable air compressor.
- ☐ Carry torque wrench, breaker bar, socket set, and bottle jack.
- ☐ Carry first aid kit and basic roadside emergency kit.
- ☐ Bring extra wheel chocks.
- ☐ Check insurance and registration documents.

Optional Extra Checks

- ☐ Test breakaway brake system if equipped.
- ☐ Lubricate hitch ball with grease.
- ☐ Check spare hub assembly if possible.

Notes: