



# Pre-Departure Checklist

## Before Towing, Double-Check All of These Items

- Lug Nuts:** Retighten lug nuts at first 10, 25, 50 miles.
- Tires & Wheels:**
  - Tire Pressure – Once a month: Inflate tires on trailer and tow vehicle to the pressure stated on the certification / VIN label. Be sure to include a spare tire.
  - Inspect tires for uneven wear patterns on the tread, cracks, foreign objects, or other signs of wear or trauma.
  - Remove bits of glass and foreign objects wedged in the tread.
  - Make sure your tire valves have valve caps.
  - Check tire pressure before going on a long trip.
  - Coupler:** Should be secured, tight & locked.
  - Safety Chains:** properly rigged to tow vehicle, not to hitch or ball.
  - Lights:** Test tail, Stop, and Turn Lights.
- Make sure the trailer jack, tongue support, and stabilizer jacks are raised and locked into place.
- Secure ramps for travel.
- Test trailer Brakes (at no more than 30 MPH)
  - Adjust after the first 200 miles
  - Adjust again after each 3,000 miles after that.
- Safety Breakaway:** lanyard fastened to tow vehicle, not to safety chains.
- Towing Hitch** and **Hitch-Ball** are tight.
- Make sure to load properly:
  - Cargo properly loaded, balanced and tied down. Always load heavier cargo in the front.
  - Do not overload your vehicle!
- Check tongue weight and weight distribution set-up.
- Check fire extinguisher (If Applicable)
- Check flares and reflectors (If Applicable)
- Make sure to fasten your seat belts! It's the Law!
- Adjust Mirrors

After 10 Miles	After 25 Miles	After 50 Miles
Retighten lug nuts	Retighten lug nuts	Coupler secured
Check tire pressure	Check tire pressure	Safety chains are fastened and don't drag
Couplers secured	Couplers secured	Cargo secured

### Tips While on the Road:

- Reduce speed to 55 mph or below. Stop often for rest.
- Avoid driving when you are tired and at night.
- Inspect your vehicle and trailer connections at each stop.
- Anticipate stops, brake early. If a wheel goes off a paved road, ease off the gas pedal and slow to a speed below 25 mph.
- Gradually steer back onto the road. Don't use cruise control.
- Avoid sharp turns.
- Shift to a lower gear and ease off the gas pedal when going downhill. Don't ride the brakes.
- If you must back up, have someone watch as you back up or get out and check if no one can help. Keep your hands at the bottom of the steering wheel and move the hand that is on the same side as the direction you wish to move the trailer.