

Pre-Trip Inspection



1. Check Tires: check and correct tire pressure on the tow vehicle and trailer, including the spare tire.
2. Lug Nuts/Bolts: make sure the wheel lug nuts/bolts on the tow vehicle and trailer are tightened to the correct torque.
3. Connection: be sure the hitch, coupler, draw bar and other equipment that connect the trailer and the tow vehicle are properly secured and adjusted.
4. Safety Chain: make sure the safety chains are properly criss-crossed and connected, not touching the road but with enough slack to make sure.
5. Wiring: check that the wiring is properly connected; not touching the road, but loose enough to make turns without disconnecting or damaging the wires.
6. Light it Up: make sure all running lights, brake lights, turn signals and hazard lights are working.
7. Brakes: Verify that the brakes on the tow vehicle and trailer are operating correctly.
8. Breakaway System: ensure the breakaway system lanyard is connected to the tow vehicle but not to the safety chains or ball mount.

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9. Securely Fastened: check that all items are securely fastened on and in the trailer.
10. Lock It: be sure the trailer jack, tongue support and any attached stabilizers are raised and locked in place.
11. Distribute Load: check load distribution to make sure the tow vehicle and trailer are properly balanced front to back and side to side.
12. Mirror Mirror: check side- and rear-view mirrors to make sure you have good visibility.
13. Map It: check routes and restrictions on bridges and tunnels.
14. Chock It Up: make sure you have wheel chocks and jack stands.
15. Check Up: check that the wiring is properly connected; not touching the road, but loose enough to make turns without disconnecting or damaging the wires.
16. Maintain: 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.

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