

TOWPRO ACADEMY

Free Towing Safety Checklist

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Use this checklist every time you tow. Skipping even one step can lead to trailer sway, brake failure, or a dangerous accident on the road.

01 BEFORE YOU HITCH UP

- ☐ Check your truck's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) and confirm trailer weight is within limits
- ☐ Verify your truck's towing capacity in owner's manual — never exceed it
- ☐ Confirm Tongue Weight is 10–15% of total trailer weight
- ☐ Inspect hitch receiver for cracks, rust, or damage
- ☐ Verify hitch ball size matches trailer coupler (1-7/8", 2", or 2-5/16")
- ☐ Check weight-distribution system if towing over 5,000 lbs

02 HITCH & COUPLING

- ☐ Lower trailer coupler fully onto hitch ball — hear/feel it click
- ☐ Close and latch coupler lock; insert pin or padlock
- ☐ Attach safety chains in a cross pattern under the tongue
- ☐ Leave enough slack for turns but no dragging on ground
- ☐ Connect breakaway cable to truck frame (NOT hitch ball)
- ☐ Plug in 4-pin or 7-pin trailer wiring connector

03 LIGHTS & BRAKES

- ☐ Test brake lights — have someone stand behind trailer
- ☐ Test left and right turn signals on trailer
- ☐ Confirm running/marker lights are working
- ☐ If trailer has electric brakes, test brake controller sync
- ☐ Check trailer breakaway battery is charged
- ☐ Verify brake controller gain setting matches trailer load

04 TIRES & WHEELS

- ☐ Check trailer tire pressure (see sidewall for max PSI)
- ☐ Inspect tires for cracks, bulges, or worn tread
- ☐ Confirm all lug nuts are torqued to spec (typically 90–110 ft-lbs)
- ☐ Verify spare tire is present and properly inflated
- ☐ Check truck rear tires — add air if towing heavy load
- ☐ Look for uneven tire wear that may indicate alignment issues

05 LOAD & BALANCE

- ☐ 60% of cargo weight loaded in front half of trailer
- ☐ Heavy items secured low and centered side-to-side
- ☐ All items strapped or tied down — nothing loose
- ☐ Slide-out rooms (RV) fully retracted and locked
- ☐ Trailer level or slightly nose-down (1–3 inches)
- ☐ Check rearview mirror for clear visibility or add towing mirrors

06 ON THE ROAD — DRIVING TIPS

- ☐ Allow 2–3x normal stopping distance
- ☐ Keep speeds under 65 mph (check trailer speed rating)
- ☐ Make wide turns — trailer cuts corners shorter than truck
- ☐ Avoid sudden lane changes or sharp braking
- ☐ If trailer sways: hold steering wheel firmly, DO NOT brake hard
- ☐ Pull over every 50 miles on first trip to check hitch and load

07 EMERGENCY ESSENTIALS TO CARRY

- ☐ Spare trailer tire (correct size for your trailer)
- ☐ Lug wrench and jack rated for trailer weight
- ☐ Wheel chocks (2 minimum)
- ☐ Extra safety chains
- ☐

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