

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT



Trailers



Is your vehicle capable of towing this trailer?

It is the driver's legal responsibility to check vehicle manufacturer's towing specifications for braked and unbraked maximum loadings and are adhered to. This also includes all on road legal requirements.

SAFETY FIRST

If you are collecting the equipment for someone else please make sure this sheet is given to the equipment user to read. This sheet should be given to the site supervisor if the equipment is being hired for commercial use so that the information is available to all users.

Before starting any job, be sure to spend a few minutes planning and understanding the hazards and risks of the job. Do this by:

- Thinking about and observing your surroundings
- Running through the steps of the job in your mind
- Identifying the hazards, how you can get hurt and how you'll prevent it
- Knowing what plant and equipment you need
- Only starting when you can do the job safely
- Ensuring you are trained or experienced for the task
- Communicating with everyone involved

Points to consider when planning a task. Can you:

- Come into contact with an energy source (e.g. heat, electricity, substance under pressure) or hazardous materials
- Be struck-by or against anything
- Be caught in, on or between anything
- Slip, trip or fall on the same or to a lower level
- Strain or sprain a muscle
- Cause damage to plant, equipment or property
- Spill or pollute something

Pre-Start Checks and Safety

- WOF and Registration is current
- Tyres are inflated and free of damage
- All lights are working
- Brake fluid level is full (if applicable)
- Always ensure you comply with the legal requirements when carrying dangerous goods

Connecting to the Tow Vehicle

1. Connect the trailer to the towing vehicle
2. Check that the tow coupling is properly secured to the tow ball by way of catch or pin being correctly in place
3. Ensure you have selected the correct tow ball size if the trailer has a dual coupling i.e. 50mm or 1 7/8"
4. Where fitted ensure safety clips are connected to drop down latches for tail gate and ramp security
5. Secure safety chain with the "D" shackle to the towing vehicle
6. Attach the trailer light connection lead
7. Stow the jockey wheel/stand into its correct position (if applicable)
8. Ensure the hand brake is released and that the reversing latch is out of the reverse position (if applicable)
9. If break-away hand brake cable is fitted, make sure it is connected

Towing Speeds

- The maximum legal travel speed while towing a trailer is **90km/hr** on the open highway.
- Smaller trailers with no suspension **should not** exceed 50km/hr

Loading the Trailer

- Never overload a trailer, this is one of the main causes of accidents when trailers are involved
- The load must not exceed 1.25m from the centre line of the trailer
- Any load that exceeds more than 1.0m behind the trailer must have a clearly visible flag attached to it
- To avoid swaying large masses should be concentrated slightly forward of the axle of the trailer and as low as possible
- The driver of the vehicle on which the trailer is attached is responsible for ensuring that all loads are legally secured while in transport
- When using a fitted winch during loading, the ratchet must always be engaged to prevent run away loads
- When loading a trailer always ensure that loading is done on a flat level surface

Travelling

- When travelling with a loaded trailer you must be capable of stopping within seven metres from a speed of 30km/hr
- Where possible avoid excessive braking while cornering as this may cause losing control and jack-knifing
- Use a lower gear when travelling down hill to help prevent the trailer pushing the tow vehicle while braking
- Never tow with the park brake on
- Allow more distance to overtake and avoid cutting off the overtaken vehicle when returning to your lane
- Care must be taken not to hold up following traffic unnecessarily. Pull over where possible

Estimate Weights of Common Products

Dry Sand	Wet Sand	Bricks	Concrete	Timber
1.4t - 1.7t m ⁻³	1.95t m ⁻³	1.9t - 2.9t m ⁻³	2.2t - 2.5t m ⁻³	500 - 850kg m ⁻³