

Hejny Rentals, Inc.

Contractor, Lawn & Garden, and Party Equipment Rentals
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Open Utility Trailers

Selecting Hitch

Selecting the Right Hitch is easy for a specific type of trailer. The hitch must carry the trailer's tongue weight and pull its gross weight. But if the hitch will be used to pull various size trailer and loads you should have a heavier duty hitch and ball. Remember, the hitch 1) must carry the trailer's tongue weight and pull its gross weight and 2) MUST not exceed the rated towing capacity of the vehicle.

Loading

1. Proper Trailer Loading is the first-line defense against dangerous instability and sway. Avoid overloading. Use the heaviest possible hitch for towing. A loaded trailer should never outweigh the towing vehicle. The towing vehicle must weigh at least 1000 lbs. more than the trailer weight combined with the load weight.
2. Load heavy items over and in front of the axle(s). Load the trailer so that 60% of the load is forward of the wheel assembly. This allows 10% of the load to rest on the hitch, and the remainder of the weight to be carried by the trailer.
3. Balance load from side-to-side.
4. Secure items from shifting.
5. Do not exceed hitch tongue-weight capacity.
6. No passengers in trailers. Trailers should never be occupied while being towed, under any circumstances. People riding in trailers can be and have been seriously hurt from sudden stops, shifting loads, falling, etc.
7. Tire inflation. Check the recommendations of your towing vehicle and trailers manufacturer for proper tire inflation when towing.
8. Trailer Lights, Turn Signals, Marker Lights, Electric Brakes, Break-Away Switches - and their connections - are safety-critical items. Check them every time you tow, no matter how short the trip. CUSTOMERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WIRING AND LIGHTS ON TOWING VEHICLE.

Driving

1. Start slowly, drive slowly, stop slowly - you are towing extra weight.
2. Passing room - Stopping room. The additional trailer weight affects acceleration and braking. Extra time and room should be allowed for passing, stopping and changing lanes. Slow down for bumps and rough roads. If you "bottom out" or suspect damage or something wrong, pull over and stop. Check for trouble and correct it before going on.
3. When passing a slower vehicle, or parking, remember the extra length of your vehicle.
4. Mirrors. Make sure you can see your trailer sides in your side-view mirrors while towing and backing.
5. Fuel and Rest Stop Checks - Check your trailer hitch, ball coupler, safety chains, tires and load during stops. Feel the hubs to make sure they are not hot. If so, they may lack grease, be too tight, or too loose. Check the wheel nuts for tightness also.
6. If the trailer sways, pull to the side of the road as soon as possible, applying steady brake pressure until stopped. Determine the cause of the sway: Improper loading, Load shift, Loose hitch, Tire Pressure (low or flat), Hub temperature (wheel bearings), or Broken springs.
7. Be careful when backing up - use a spotter.
8. With heavy loads, be careful when driving down steep grades.

Safety Chains

1. Safety Chains provide the final safety connection between a trailer and towing vehicle in the event of failure of the trailer coupler or the hitch ball. If the trailer comes loose, they must hold it to the towing vehicle.
2. Cross the chains under the trailer tongue to prevent the tongue dropping to the ground if the trailer comes loose.
3. Pass chain around a frame member or secure bumper iron and hook it back to itself for strongest attachment. If the chain hook is attached to a frame member or bumper iron or hole, it may slip off or the hook be straightened out if the trailer comes loose. Attach chains securely.
4. Allow only enough slack in chains to permit proper turning of vehicles. Do not let chains drag the ground, or be drawn up too tight. Slack length should hold tongue and coupler off the ground with the trailer loose.

WARNING! This trailer cannot be transferred or towed by a different vehicle!

Description of material or equipment being hauled: _____

Need It. Rent It!