

Pre-Departure Checklist

Before Towing, Double-Check All of These Items

Lug Nuts: Retighten lug nuts at first 10, 25, 50 miles.	Secure ramps for travel.
Tires and Wheels	Test trailer brakes (at no more than 30 m.p.h.)
☐ Tire Pressure - Once a month: Inflate tires on	☐ Adjust after the first 200 miles.
trailer and tow vehicle to the pressure stated on	☐ Adjust again after each 3,000 miles after that.
the Certification / VIN label. Be sure to include the	Safety breakaway lanyard fastened to tow vehicle, not to
spare tire.	safety chains. See "Coupling To Tow Vehicle" section of
$\hfill \square$ Inspect tires for uneven wear patterns on the tread,	your manual.
cracks, foreign objects, or other signs of wear or trauma.	Towing hitch and hitch-ball are tight.
☐ Remove bits of glass and foreign objects wedged in	Make sure to load properly:
the tread.	$\hfill \square$ Cargo properly loaded, balanced and tied down. Always
☐ Make sure your tire valves have valve caps.	load heavier cargo in the front. See the appropriate
$\hfill \Box$ Check tire pressure before going on a long trip.	"Loading And Unloading" section of this manual.
Coupler should be secured, tight & locked. See	□ Do not overload your vehicle. Check the Tire
"Coupling To Tow Vehicle" section of your manual.	Information Placard or Owner's Manual for the
Safety chains properly rigged to tow vehicle, not to	maximum recommended load for the vehicle.
hitch or ball. See "Coupling To Tow Vehicle" section of	Check tongue weight and weight distribution set-up.
your manual.	Check fire extinguisher.
Lights: Test Tail, Stop, and Turn Lights.	Check flares and reflectors.
Make sure the trailer jack, tongue support, and	Make sure to fasten your seat belts
stabilizer jacks are raised and locked into place.	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 not dragging
Couplers secured	Couplers secured	Cargo secured

Tips While on the Road:

Reduce speed to 55 mph or be

- ☐ 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 down hill. 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.

A REMEMBER: A

Crashes are caused by driver error or inattention, excessive speed, failure to load trailer heavier in front.

