



Towing Your Trailer Safely

Securing the Trailer

People who tow trailers share the same safety concerns as other vehicle drivers. However, a tow vehicle and a trailer form an Articulated (hinged) vehicle which presents an additional set of concerns. The tow vehicle must be a proper match for the trailer. If the trailer is properly secured, it can perform safely under a variety of conditions.

Are You On The Ball?

When you have your trailer ball under the trailer coupler, you will need to use the trailer jack to lower the coupler onto the ball. Make sure the coupler is in the loose position and that the clamp in the coupler has dropped open. These parts can tend to stick, especially if they have not been lubricated or used in a while.

If your coupler clamp has not released, the couple will come down On the ball and it will look like it has covered the ball correctly, but Nothing but gravity is holding it on the hitch! This is a major cause of breakaway accidents, so it pays to make sure. You should be able to feel the clamp around the bottom of the ball when the coupler is connected. If the clamp release doesn't come down correctly, that's a clue that your not really on the ball.

Perform a Safety Inspection before each trip. Make sure that:

- . The pin securing the ball mount to the receiver is intact.**
- . The hitch coupler is secured.**
- . Stow the trailer tongue jack, be sure it is locked to place.**
- . Safety chains are properly attached and crossed under the trailer coupler.**
- . The electrical plug is properly installed. Check all lights.**