

# American Fence & Supply Co., Inc. "New" Trailer Safety & Hook-up Procedures

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PURCHASERS NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TRAILER VIN # \_\_\_\_\_ ! E-Tag Plate # \_\_\_\_\_ !

TOWING VEHICLE LIC. PLATE # \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ INSURANCE EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ! (Insurance information not required on

("!" indicates State Inspection Requirement) Farm, Token, or Single Axle Trailers)

## Prior to hook-up, check hitch on tow vehicle, check trailer tires / wheels.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Check for loose bolts, attaching pins, check lug nuts for proper torque. Check for proper inflation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check ball for tightness and proper size to match trailer coupler.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If receiver hitch is used, check cross pin and safety pin.
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Tire tread at least 2/32" deep, no cuts/tears over 1", bulges, bumps.
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Dual tires or oversized tires must have safety flaps at least as wide as tires within 8" of road surface. (+- 4")
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ No bends, cracks, or welds on wheels.

## Hook trailer to tow vehicle.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Check ball size matches trailer hitch coupler, coupler securely attached to ball, safety pin inserted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attach and crisscross safety chains to tow vehicle if vehicle is equipped with loop or eyes for connection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*Tow vehicle not properly equipped with loops or eyes for safety chains.

## Check trailer for proper towing attitude.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer elevation needs to be at a minimum of level to slightly higher at front of trailer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*Tow vehicle not properly equipped, hitch too high or low for proper towing attitude.

## Check tail / stop lamps, turn signals, license plate light, reflectors

- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Check tail lamps\*\*, clearance lamps\*\*, side marker lamps\*\*, reflectors\*\*, license plate lamp (with tow vehicle head/park lights on)
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Check stop lamps\*\* with tow vehicle lights "on".
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Check left / right turn signal with tow vehicle lights "on".
- \_\_\_\_\_ If equipped, check trailer dome light with tow vehicle lights on. (some trailers have separate hot wire circuit for dome lights)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*Tow vehicle not properly equipped for one or more of the above lighting requirements. \_\_\_\_\_

## Check Electric Brakes if applicable,

- \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer not equipped with brakes. GVWR over 4500 lb at least one brake axle required!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check tow vehicle brake controller, adjust level and gain as needed. At a speed of 3-5 mph apply trailer brakes with controller only. Should be able to stop combination towing vehicle and trailer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*Tow vehicle not properly equipped with brake control unit or unit does not operate properly.
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Perform brake road test, at 20 mph vehicle and trailer must stop smoothly within 50'.
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ If tow vehicle has no brake control unit, must verify trailer brakes work. (test with EBAK or another tow vehicle)
- \_\_\_\_\_ If trailer is equipped with EBAK and battery, check for proper operation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*Trailer does not have brakes or emergency break away system.

## Miscellaneous.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Check all gates, doors and latches. All gates / doors should be closed and latched before trailer is towed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Demonstrate proper methods of latching all gates, doors and securing tilt pins on tilt trailers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Check that jacks are properly retracted / flipped up and secured. (sand plates or wheels removed if removable style).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Close down roll up camper vents before traveling. Raise stabilizer jacks before traveling.

\*\* reflectors, clearance lamps, and side marker lamps required as follows:

ALL NEW TRAILERS SOLD BY AFSC ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE PROPER LIGHTS AND REFLECTORS LISTED BELOW, JUST MAKE SURE ALL RUNNING LIGHTS ARE ILLUMINATED AND THAT BRAKE LIGHTS AND TURN SIGNALS ARE WORKING.

- ! \_\_\_\_\_ All trailers- 2 red rear reflectors. 2 red tail lamps, 2 amber/red stop lamps, 2 amber/red turn signals. (tail, stop, turn lamp combination ok)
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Trailers 80" wide or wider: 2 amber side marker lamps on side near front / 2 amber clearance lamps on front or side near front (combination ok)
  - 2 red side marker lamps on side near rear / 2 red clearance lamps on rear or side near rear (combination ok)
  - 2 amber side reflectors near front, 2 red side reflectors near rear
- ! \_\_\_\_\_ Trailers 30' or longer 2 amber side marker lamps centrally located / 2 amber side reflectors centrally located.

**Trailer Ramps:** Some trailers from some manufacturers are provided with trailer ramps. Trailer ramps should only be used in level, dry, hard surfaced areas. While loading equipment or vehicles on to or off of any trailer, the trailer must be properly hitched to a towing vehicle; the frame of the trailer should be properly "blocked" and fully supported just below the attachment point of the ramps. Equipment or vehicles to be loaded on to or off of a trailer using factory supplied ramps should be safely and properly winched or pushed on to or off of the trailer. No equipment or vehicle should ever be driven up or down trailer ramps. Driving equipment or vehicles on to or off of trailer ramps is extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury or death.

**I, the purchaser, understand and agree that the above safety checks have been performed and explained to me by an American Fence & Supply Co. representative. I acknowledge receipt of manufacturers' owner's manual and a copy of this safety and information sheet. If any of the above items are checked "tow vehicle not properly equipped" customer hereby agrees to immediately have any deficiencies corrected before using or towing trailer. American Fence & Supply is not responsible for any accidents or damages that may occur. This printing is intended to aid in safe trailer towing and does not intend/nor claim to address all issues of safe towing that may occur. American Fence & Supply nor its associates assume any responsibility for the collective comments of these suggestions. Purchaser hereby acknowledges and accepts all terms, conditions and recommendations printed on the front and back of this page.**

Purchaser Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ AF&SC Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Safety / Maintenance / Proper Use / General Information / Terms & Conditions

Thank you for purchasing your trailer from American Fence & Supply Company. Trailers are designed and manufactured to give you many years of reliable service. Your safety and the safety of your cargo or animal is our highest priority. However, as a responsible trailer owner it is your , (including all users and employees) responsibility to be familiar with your trailer, follow safety guidelines and the recommended maintenance instructions to ensure you have many years of safe and dependable hauling. The manufacturer's owner's manual will allow you to become more familiar with the operation, maintenance and care of your trailer.

**WARNING:** Do not operate this trailer unless you have read and understand the safety information in the owner's manual! Failure to properly operate and maintain the towing vehicle and trailer can result in possible injury and/or death and could cause damage to the trailer and tow vehicle. When a trailer is sold, loaned, rented, leased, traded in or leaves the initial owner, it is the responsibility of the owner to transfer this information along with all owner's manuals to the receiving party. It is important that all users learn to use this trailer properly to avoid injury or possible death of themselves or others. Learn and practice safe trailer handling, hauling, and maintenance procedures as per owner's manual before using trailer.

**DISCLAIMER:** All trailers are designed to be used within the proper use and operation guidelines set forth by the trailer manufacturer. If you are not sure whether or not a trailer you have purchased is suitable for a particular use, you should contact the manufacturer of the trailer directly for an opinion. American Fence & Supply Company nor any employee of American Fence & Supply Company is neither authorized nor qualified to determine the suitability of any trailer for any particular use outside the specific guidelines of the trailer manufacturer. American Fence & Supply Co is not responsible for any property damage, personal injury or death resulting from the unsuitable use or improper operation of this trailer. Optional features included on any trailer, such as heavier axles, bigger tires, extra width, extra height do not change the manufacturer's recommendations for proper use and operation guidelines.

**ALTERATIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO YOUR TRAILER:** If you plan to make any alterations or modifications to your trailer, you should consult the trailer manufacturer directly for an opinion and request a written response. A minor alteration or modification could compromise the safety or suitability of the trailer for continued use. Alterations or modifications will void any warranty on the trailer.

**MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY:** See manufacturer's owner's manual for details. Warranties do not apply if trailer is subject to negligence, accident, abuse, misuse, neglect or overload or has been repaired or altered without prior written consent. Normal wear items, including but not limited to doors, struts, lights, bearings, brakes, brake linings, tires and batteries are not warranted.

**TOWING YOUR TRAILER:** It is very important to tow your trailer with a vehicle of proper size that is equipped with adequate engine power, proper brake system, correct hitch size, correct ball size and an ample suspension to maintain a safe ride. Please confer with your automotive dealer for tow ratings. If you have questions as to recommended hitch size see your nearest professional hitch installer. It is imperative for a smooth ride and proper operation to have the trailer elevation towed at a minimum of level to slightly positive height at the front of trailer. If the trailer purchased is equipped with brakes, it is recommended that purchaser have a brake control unit installed before towing the trailer. If the purchaser ignores this recommendation and insists on towing any trailer equipped with brakes without the use of a brake control unit, purchaser hereby agrees to accept full responsibility for any accident, injury or death resulting from this action. It is the sole responsibility of the purchaser to ensure a safe and proper tow vehicle to trailer hookup before leaving American Fence & Supply Co. premises.

**PROPER LOADING / DISTRIBUTION:** Do not overload your trailer. The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) minus the shipping weight of the trailer equals the maximum carrying capacity of the trailer. The Manufacturers Statement of Origin (MSO) provided with each trailer indicates the GVWR and the shipping weight of the trailer. Additionally, a Texas Title Application receipt or a Non-Titled Vehicle Receipt will list the GVWR (called Gross Weight on the receipt), the shipping weight (called the Empty Weight on the receipt) and the Carrying Capacity. Proper distribution of the loaded weight is equally important. Loads far less than the maximum carrying capacity, improperly distributed on the trailer, can be very unstable and dangerous. As purchaser of the trailer, you are fully responsible to make sure that the trailer is never overloaded and that all loads are properly and safely distributed. Uneven loading and/or insufficient trailer hitch capacity on towing vehicle can cause your trailer to be unstable and result in serious bodily injury and/or death.

**STATE INSPECTION:** Many trailers require State Mandated Inspections. Out of state purchasers hereby agree to contact proper state entity to determine if state inspection is required for this trailer and purchaser further agrees that if any inspection is required that purchaser will obtain appropriate inspection of this trailer at purchaser's expense before using or towing trailer.

### CHECKLIST AND RESPONSIBILITY OF PURCHASER/OWNER/USER:

1. Check wheel lug nuts before using the trailer, then recheck after 10 miles, recheck again after 50 miles and recheck every 3,000 miles or 3 months thereafter. Make sure to tighten all lug nuts to proper torque specification.
2. Check tire condition and tire air pressure before every use. Make sure tires are in good conditions and tire is inflated according to tire manufacturer's recommendation.
3. Safety chains should be properly hooked to tow vehicle according to manufacturer's recommendation on every use.
4. Hitch ball size should be verified to match trailer coupler size and coupler latch should be locked and safety pin inserted on every use.
5. Running lights, brake lights and turn signals should be checked for proper operation on every use.
6. Check the operation and adjustment of trailer brakes before each use.
7. Test the emergency break away system before each use. Make sure the battery is properly charged. If needed, you may install a battery maintainer to keep battery charged.
8. Check the wheel bearings for proper lubrication and rotation, check for proper position of the spindle nut and make sure spindle nut cotter pin is in place to prevent spindle nut from spinning off after 10 miles and then recheck every 3000 miles.
9. Place all jacks in up (travel position) on each use.
10. Make sure all doors are closed and locked, all roll up camper vents are closed when towing.
11. Check all welds for cracking and separations every 6,000 miles or 6 months.
12. Check all hinges proper operation. Lubricate with oil/grease every 3,000 miles or 3 months.
13. Check all D-rings and Tie Downs before every use. Make sure all bolts and nuts are tight and all welds are secure without cracks.
14. Check all wheels for sign of damage or bending before each use. Replace any damaged or bent wheels.
15. All items above should be checked for safety, however your safety check should not limited to these items alone.

**Intended Use:** The trailer purchased should only be used for the manufacturers intended use. Examples: A cattle trailer should never be used to transport a horse. A horse trailer should never be used to transport a deer. An equipment trailer should never be used to transport any animal. Purchaser hereby acknowledges that he or she is fully aware of and understands that any animal can, at any time, become frightened, angry, uncooperative, and dangerous to itself and persons nearby. Purchaser agrees to accept full and unconditional responsibility for any damage to property, for any injuries or deaths to any animals or persons that may occur while any animal is inside, outside or near any trailer purchased. Everyone's safety is the highest priority of American Fence & Supply, the trailer manufacturer, and the manufacturer of components parts for trailers. If you have any concerns, questions, or problems, please contact Boo Custer at our League City, Texas location, Rick Mashburn at our Georgetown, Texas location, the trailer manufacturer and/or manufacturer of component part for additional information. Additional copies are available upon request or can be viewed and printed from our website. **ALWAYS THINK SAFETY FIRST. WE DO!!**