

Trailer Pre-Tow Inspection Checklist

Run the same walk-around every time, in the same order, so nothing gets skipped because you were in a hurry.

A pre-tow inspection for a trailer, horsebox, plant trailer or caravan. Runs top to bottom in the order you would walk around it.

KNOW YOUR OWN LIMITS

Load security and towing limits are legal duties in most countries, and the limits depend on your vehicle, your licence and the trailer's plated weights. Check what applies to you — this sheet records the walk-around, it does not set the rules.

Trailer / unit	Registration or ID	Date
Towing vehicle	Checked by	

COUPLING

☐ Coupling head fully seated and locked on the ball	
☐ Safety chain or breakaway cable connected correctly	
☐ Jockey wheel raised, clamped and secure	
☐ Handbrake released; damper and linkage sound	

RUNNING GEAR

☐ Tyre pressures correct, including the spare	
☐ Tyre tread, sidewalls and age	
☐ Wheel nuts tight to torque	
☐ Hubs not running hot after a short run	
☐ Suspension and axle visually sound	

LIGHTS AND ELECTRICS

☐ Side and tail lights	
☐ Brake lights	
☐ Indicators both sides	

- ☐ Number plate light
- ☐ Fog light
- ☐ Reversing light where fitted
- ☐ Plug and socket clean, undamaged and clipped

BODY AND LOAD

- ☐ Floor, ramps and side panels sound
- ☐ Load evenly distributed and within plated weight
- ☐ Nose weight within the towing vehicle's limit
- ☐ Load secured with rated straps in good condition
- ☐ Doors, tailgate and ramp latched
- ☐ Number plate present, clean and matching

Signed

Print name

Date _____

Notes and anything specific to yours