

Boat Trailing Checklists

Here are some helpful checklists showing things to do while trailering boats that will help make sure to keep trailering as safe and trouble-free as possible.

Before Trip List Items

1. Make sure the trailer coupler is securely locked onto the hitch ball (add grease to hitch ball if it's not yet greased)
2. Cross the safety chains/cables when connecting the trailer to the vehicle
3. Connect the electrical cord to the vehicle
4. Check that the hitch ball is securely bolted onto the hitch
5. Check trailer hitch pin to make sure it's in place and secure
6. Make sure safety straps/chains are secure for securing the bow and stern of the boat to the trailer
7. Check that trailer lights and turn signals are working
8. Make sure that the trailer's lug nuts are secure and not full of rust
9. Look for signs of grease on hubs (a grease leak will increase odds of having a hub problem)
10. Check that all tires (including the spare) have proper air pressure
11. Bring all needed gear for fixing a flat tire (spare tire(s), jack, tire iron, wood plank) & store in an easy to access location
12. Check that all items in the boat are secure and won't blow out while on the road
13. When stopping for gas or at the ramp, feel the hubs to make sure they are not hot (hot hubs is a sign of needing to be replaced before it locks up)
14. [Optional] Pack extra hitch & spare tire if on a long trip in case you or someone else needs it
15. [Optional] Pack an extra hub in case one goes out while on the road

Right Before Launching Items

1. Make sure the plug is in the boat
2. Load everything needed from vehicle to boat
3. Unfasten safety tie-downs in the stern of the boat before backing into the water
4. Have set plan for handling/securing boat once it's off the trailer
5. Unfasten bow tie-downs once trailer tires are in the water
6. Rinse off hubs with fresh water after pulling the trailer out of saltwater

This list is from a helpful article on www.saltstrong.com. It has a video with further details as well as an active Comments feed in which you can see helpful details from fishermen across the country who share their tips/tricks learned over the years.

Here's a direct link to the article for more details:

<https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/boat-trailering-checklist>