




**IMPORTANT: Carefully read and follow all instructions marked with warnings and read and follow all of the instructions in your setup guide *BEFORE* you take your trailer on the road.**

## Warning symbols

 **WARNING:** Warning symbols draw your attention to serious safety hazards, which can lead to injury, death, or damage to equipment.

## Swaying


 **WARNING:** Swaying is a moderate back and forth movement of a trailer behind a tow vehicle and can lead to dangerous whipping unless you slow down.

## Whipping


 **WARNING:** Whipping is the violent back and forth movement of a trailer behind a tow vehicle. Whipping can be caused by excessive speed for the driving conditions, turbulence, over-steering, passing vehicles, uneven roadways, or other issues. There is very little time to recover should whipping occur.




## Combination disturbance

 **WARNING:** A combination disturbance is swaying or whipping of a trailer AND the tow vehicle (the combination), caused by issues such as excessive speed for the driving conditions or load, turbulence, over-steering, passing vehicles, uneven roadways, or other issues. See *Safe Trailering Guidelines* above.

## Flat tire

 **WARNING:** In the event of a flat tire, **DO NOT BRAKE**. Take your foot off the gas pedal, slow down below 25 mph (40 kph), and drive to a safe location, where you can stop and change the tire. If necessary, you may need to drive on the flat until you can stop safely.


## Wheel off the roadway

 **WARNING:** If a wheel goes off the roadway, **DO NOT BRAKE**. Take your foot off the gas pedal, turn on your hazard lights, and slow down below 25 mph (40 kph). Then slowly steer back onto the roadway when it's safe to do so.

## Towing checklist

Go over the following checklist before you go on the road:

Checklist item	Ensure that
<b>Your tow vehicle</b>	Ensure the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» the tow vehicle is equipped with a suitable trailer hitch and the vehicle is properly maintained. Consult your vehicle manufacturer, an authorized repair facility, or hitch installation company.</li><li>» The vehicle has adequate towing capacity for the trailer, with a minimum load capacity of 500 lbs (227 kg).</li><li>» You consult the vehicle owner's manual about vehicle capacity and towing instructions particular to the vehicle.</li><li>» Any modifications to the vehicle are approved for towing by an authorized dealer or inspector.</li></ul>

Checklist item	Ensure that
<b>Trailer hitch</b>	<p>Ensure that the trailer hitch includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» a standard hitch mount with bracket for the safety chains,</li> <li>» a 2-inch (5-cm) ball,</li> <li>» a 12 VDC wiring socket.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure that the trailer hitch and ball are securely installed and suited to the tow vehicle. Ensure that the coupler and ball are fastened together securely.</p>
<b>Safety chains</b>	<p>Ensure that the safety chains are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» crossed over under the tongue and hitch,</li> <li>» securely hooked to the tow vehicle, and</li> <li>» not dragging on the pavement. See your <i>Trailer Setup Guide</i>.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>WARNING: Pay close attention to safety chain hookup and do not tow the trailer without the safety chains attached.</b></p> <p><b>If the trailer tongue becomes detached from the hitch ball while you are driving, the safety chains can prevent a serious accident by supporting the tongue and keeping the trailer attached to your vehicle temporarily until you can come to an emergency stop.</b></p>
<b>Electrical harnesses</b>	Ensure that the electrical harnesses are properly connected and the signal, tail, and brake lights are working.
<b>Tires</b>	Ensure that all tires on the tow vehicle and trailer are properly inflated. Consult the information on the tire sidewalls and your vehicle's door decal for inflation pressures.
<b>Sign</b>	Ensure that the mast, sign, and solar panel assembly are in the travel position. See your <i>Trailer Setup Guide</i> .
<b>Loading</b>	Never load cargo on the bed of the trailer.

## Safe driving practices

Use the following checklist for safe driving practices with a trailer:

Condition	Best practice
<b>Speed</b>	<p>Slow down to avoid accidents and drive defensively. Drive slower than you would without a trailer. The maximum recommended speed with a trailer is 55 mph (90 kph).</p> <p>Anticipate slowdowns in traffic and stops and apply your brakes well in advance.</p> <p>Slow down for curves, road hazards, roadwork, and difficult weather conditions.</p> <p>Don't assume you can speed with the trailer. Driving at high speeds can result in sway and whipping if hazards are present.</p> <p>Your towing vehicle and trailer combination has much higher mass and length than your vehicle by itself. Allow extra distance between your vehicle and vehicles ahead and allow extra distance for braking.</p>
<b>Assisted driving</b>	Avoid using cruise control, overdrive, and other assisted driving technologies while towing a trailer.

Condition	Best practice
<b>What to avoid</b>	Never drink or consume drugs and drive. Never text and drive or allow mobile devices to become distractions while you are driving. Pull over or wait for stops as needed to use them.
<b>Passing and turning</b>	Remember, your car and trailer combination is longer than your vehicle alone. Allow adequate extra space when passing vehicles or making sharp turns, such as in parking lots or gas stations. Be vigilant when passing or being passed by other vehicles. Passing vehicles can cause turbulence leading to a combination disturbance.
<b>For longer trips</b>	Inspect the vehicle and trailer connections at each stop.
<b>Difficult weather conditions</b>	In difficult weather conditions, adjust your driving for the conditions, allowing additional time and space between vehicles.
<b>Backing up</b>	If you need to back the trailer into position, practice beforehand, and have a partner assist you. Backing up with a trailer is a skill that can take time to learn. See your <i>Trailer Setup Guide</i> .

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