

# ATS 5 Trailer Quick Start Guide



Thank you for purchasing an **ATS 5 Trailer**. This guide will show you how to set up your new trailer. Please follow all of the steps in order. The trailer is typically outfitted with an ATS SpeedAlert 24 Radar Message Sign or InstAlert 24 Variable Message Sign. Onboard equipment is powered by lead acid batteries and an optional 120W solar panel assist. For TrafficCloud documentation, subscribers should refer to the *Getting Started with TrafficCloud* guide for your sign. On the TrafficCloud **Help** menu, click the **Getting Started Guides** link. Local Bluetooth access only customers with data-enabled signs should refer to the configuration section of the *Quick Start Guide* for your sign, which includes details about using TrafficCloud Sign Manager for Windows.

### Initial ATS 5 Trailer setup

**IMPORTANT:** Review the [Safe Trailering Guidelines](#) on the next page and then perform the following setup steps:

*Step 1: Inspecting and charging the trailer's batteries on page 4*

*Step 2: Hooking up the trailer on page 5*

*Step 3: Setting up the trailer at the roadside on page 6*

*Step 4: Powering on the sign on page 7*

*Step 5: Securing the trailer on page 8*

After deployment, see [Packing up the trailer for redeployment on page 8](#).



## Check over the trailer

Upon receiving your new ATS 5 Trailer, check to ensure that you have all of the items ordered. If you notice any damaged or missing items, contact ATS [Technical Customer Support](#) immediately.

Here's a summary of what's typically included with your trailer. Check your packing slip for precise order details.

What's included	What you'll need
<p>The ATS 5 Trailer includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» The trailer, with one or two pairs of deep cycle lead acid batteries and an optional 120W solar panel assist,</li><li>» If your purchase includes a solar panel, a 15A solar controller, and low-voltage disconnect to prevent deep discharging, running on a lower voltage than intended, or overcharging.</li><li>» A SpeedAlert 18 or 24 Radar Message Sign or InstAlert 18 or 24 Variable Message Sign, or Shield 15 Radar Sign (sold separately).</li><li>» A 12-VDC AC smart charger,</li><li>» This <i>ATS 5 Trailer Quick Start Guide</i>. All setup and quick start (installation) guides are also posted to the ATS <a href="#">Technical Customer Support</a> page.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>» A vehicle equipped with a trailer hitch for towing a load of up to 1,000 lbs. (454 kg), including a standard hitch mount with bracket for the safety chain, 2-inch (5-cm) ball, and flat, 4-way wiring socket. Other connection options are also available.</li><li>» A heavy duty three-pronged outdoor-rated extension cord.</li><li>» A partner for trailer hookup and to unfold the upper frame of the trailer.</li><li>» Legal licensing or registration as required for your <i>jurisdiction</i>.</li></ul>

For more details, consult the latest [ATS Trailers page](#) on our website.

# Safe Trailing Guidelines

**IMPORTANT:** Carefully read and follow all instructions marked with warnings and cautions and read and follow all of the instructions in the quick start guides for your sign and trailer **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.

## Caution symbols



**CAUTION:** Cautions advise users of specific actions that could result in damage to equipment or loss of data.

## 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 [Combination disturbance above](#).

## Flat tire



**WARNING:** In the event of a flat tire, **DO NOT BRAKE**. Take your foot off the gas pedal, slow down to 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 tire 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 to 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	What to do
<b>Your tow vehicle</b>	<p>Ensure the following:</p> <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 load capacity of up to 1,000 lbs. (454 kg) for ATS-3 and ATS-5 trailers or 1,500 lbs (680 kg) for ALPR Camera-Ready Trailers and ATS 5 FLEX Mobile Power Trailers.</li></ul>

Checklist item	What to do
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 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>
<b>Trailer hitch</b>	<p>Ensure that the trailer hitch and ball are securely installed and suited to the tow vehicle.</p> <p>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.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>WARNING:</b> Pay close attention to safety chain hookup and do not tow the trailer without the safety chains attached. If the trailer tongue becomes detached from the hitch ball while you are driving, properly attached 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.</p>
<b>Electrical harnesses</b>	<p>Ensure that the electrical harnesses are properly connected and the signal, tail, and brake lights are working.</p>
<b>Tires</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Sign</b>	<p>Ensure that the upper frame, sign, and solar panel assembly are in the travel position.</p>
<b>Loading</b>	<p>Never load cargo on the bed of the trailer.</p>

## Safe driving practices

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

Checklist item	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 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>	<p>Avoid using cruise control, overdrive, and other assisted driving technologies while towing a trailer.</p>

Checklist item	Best practice
<b>What to avoid</b>	Never drink or take drugs affecting alertness or sobriety 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, 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 if necessary. Backing up with a trailer is a skill that can take time to learn. See <a href="#">Step 3: Setting up the trailer at the roadside on page 6</a> .

## Step 1: Inspecting and charging the trailer's batteries



**CAUTION:** Before deployment, check the fluid levels in the batteries and use the smart AC charger to fully charge them. Charging may take 24 to 48 hours with the extra battery option.

The batteries are one of the most important parts of the trailer. They consist of pairs of 6V deep cycle batteries wired together to deliver 12V. Each pair adds more power and capacity to the trailer. The standard power supply is a pair of deep cycle 6V batteries in series for 12VDC operation. With the proper battery power cables, a second pair of 6V batteries can be connected in parallel with the first pair. The batteries are wired in series and parallel, which doubles both capacity and voltage. A slow-blow fuse is installed between the batteries and the load to protect your devices.

Solar assist panels will extend your sign's run time. Assuming adequate sunlight conditions, trailers with solar assist that are equipped with ATS products will typically have an indefinite run time.



**CAUTION:** Using batteries, cables, chargers or other components that do not meet All Traffic Solutions specifications may render the product warranty null and void.

### To check battery charge levels:

Check the power level displayed on any of the following:

- » The TrafficCloud Equipment page or Dashboard,
- » The TrafficCloud Mobile app for Android,
- » On message signs, during the sign start up display sequence.
- » Once the smart charger is hooked up, check the charge indicator.







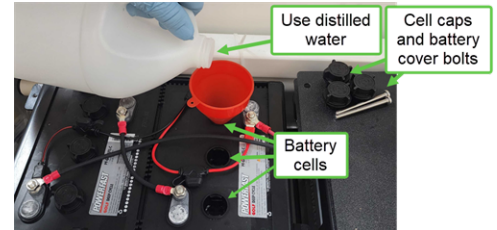
**CAUTION:** Check battery electrolyte levels every three to four months to prolong battery lifespan. Use only distilled water to top them up, NOT tap water, as shown. Impurities in water, even in small amounts, can significantly reduce battery lifespan.

### To check battery fluid levels:

- A. Make sure the trailer is powered off. See [Step 4: Powering on the sign](#) on page 7.
- B. Remove the battery storage box covers.

If the trailer is equipped with a round black cellular antenna on the battery box lid, be sure to disconnect the three SMA (coaxial) connectors before removing the lid completely.

- C. Remove the battery cover and cell caps. The electrolyte level should be up to the bottom rim, about 1/2 in. (1.27 cm) above the plate in each of the cells.
- D. For any cells that are low or dry, top them up with distilled water to the bottom rim.



### To charge the batteries:

- Plug a heavy duty three-pronged outdoor-rated extension cord into the external AC plug on the battery enclosure and plug the other end into a power outlet. Charging may take 24 to 48 hours with the extra battery option. The smart charger indicates the battery charge status during charging.



## Step 2: Hooking up the trailer

Use the instructions in this step for help with hooking up the trailer.

### Move the trailer and vehicle into position for hookup

- A. Move the trailer into position on a flat surface so that you can back your vehicle up to it.
- B. Lower all four jacks to securely support the trailer. Pull the locking pins and rotate the jacks to the deployed (vertical) position.
- C. Remove the locking pin from the tongue receiver tube (see photo [on page 8](#), top).
- D. Remove the trailer tongue from storage inside the battery box and slide it into the receiver tube.
- E. Secure the trailer tongue in the receiver tube using the locking pin.
- F. Crank the front jack handles to lift the trailer until the coupler (1) is above the height of the hitch ball (2).
- G. Back the vehicle up to the trailer so that the hitch ball (2) is just in front of the coupler (1). If necessary, have a partner guide you or use a backup camera if it provides a clear view. When your vehicle is in position, shift into park, apply the parking brake, and turn off the engine.



### Lower the trailer onto the hitch

- A. Crank the front jacks down to lower the coupler (1) onto the hitch ball.
- B. Close the tongue latch (3) to secure the ball clamp (4) around the ball.



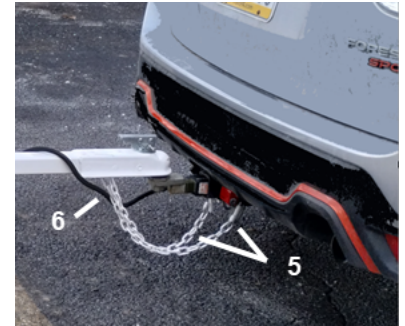
**CAUTION:** Ensure that the ball clamp is securely wrapped around the ball. If necessary, release the tongue latch and reposition the tongue on the hitch ball, or adjust the ball clamp with a wrench.

- C. Optionally, lock the tongue latch with a padlock (not included).
- D. Crank all four jacks back up, then pull the locking pins, rotate them up to the travel position (horizontal), and secure them in place.
- E. Attach the trailer safety chains (5) to the hitch frame, crossing them under the tongue and looping the S-hooks back onto the chain. Leave enough slack in the chains to allow for cornering, but make sure they don't drag on the roadway.



**WARNING:** Pay close attention to safety chain hookup and do not tow the trailer without the safety chains attached.

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.



- F. Connect the wiring harnesses (6).
- G. Test to ensure that the trailer signal lights, taillights, and brake lights are functioning properly. Work with a partner if necessary.
- H. Inspect the hitch connections to ensure that the trailer hookup is complete, and then proceed to the next step. Once all preparations are completed, you're ready to take to the road.

## Step 3: Setting up the trailer at the roadside

Use the instructions in this step for roadside setup and aiming of the sign.

### To set up the trailer at the roadside:



**WARNING: RISK OF ACCIDENT, INJURY OR DEATH.** Do not obstruct the roadway: Always choose a location for the trailer that is far enough away from moving vehicles so as not to interfere with passing traffic or put personnel at risk. When possible, the trailer should be placed off the shoulder, behind barriers or traffic cones. Before you start towing, remember to read [Safe Trailing Guidelines on page 2](#).

- A. **Tow the trailer to your chosen location:** Ensure that the surface is stable. To enhance accuracy and visibility, position the trailer so that the sign will be visible to motorists, yet the trailer is off the shoulder.
- B. **If you need to back up:** Hold one hand on the bottom of the steering wheel and move your hand left to turn the trailer to the left. To turn the trailer right, move your hand to the right. If the trailer turns the wrong way, pull ahead until the vehicle and trailer are in a straight line and start again.
- C. **Aim the sign:** Point the sign as directly as possible towards the traffic lanes you want to monitor, making sure there are no obstructions.
- D. **Deploy all four jacks:** Park the trailer, then stabilize it with the jacks. Rotate all four jacks down from the travel position and crank them up until the trailer wheels lift off the ground, as shown [Step 2: Hooking up the trailer on the previous page](#).



### To unhitch the trailer:

- A. Disconnect the wiring harness
- B. Unhook the safety chains, and hook them back on the trailer.

- C. Open the tongue latch.
- D. Using the front jacks or by hand, lift the trailer off the hitch ball.
- E. Move the tow vehicle away from the trailer.

### Positioning the solar panel (if equipped)

Use these steps to position the solar panel (or solar panels) , if equipped, **before you raise the trailer's upper frame**. Remember to avoid installations in the shade.

#### To unfold the solar panel:

- A. Pull out the locking pins on either side of the solar panel.
- B. Rotate the panel to the ready-to-raise position as shown at right, and replace the locking pins.



### Raising the trailer's upper frame



**WARNING: RISK OF CAPSIZING.** As mentioned above, **before you raise the trailer's upper frame, make sure that all four jacks are down at least far enough to prevent capsizing.**



**CAUTION:** As you raise the upper frame, be careful and use both hands, moving the handle slowly and applying counter weight. The load will shift as it nears the final position.



- A. Remove the lifting handle from its storage position inside the battery box.
- B. Slide the lifting handle into the lifting mount, and secure the handle into the mount using the supplied locking pin.
- C. Open the rubber tie-down (see page 9), and pull the two locking pins that are holding the upper frame in the down position.
- D. Carefully pull down on the lifting handle to raise the upper frame of the trailer. As mentioned, **use both hands, moving the handle slowly and applying pressure as you raise the upper frame. The weight will shift as the load nears the final position.** Once the upper frame is fully upright, the solar panel (or panels) will be facing skyward in a horizontal position (parallel to the ground), as shown on page 1. This is the recommended position for solar charging in any location.
- E. Replace the locking pins to secure the frame in place.

## Step 4: Powering on the sign

Here's how to power on the sign and activate your solar panel (if equipped).



**NOTE:** Make sure you charge the sign batteries before initial deployment. See [Step 1: Inspecting and charging the trailer's batteries on page 4](#). For details about sign setup, refer to the *Quick Start Guide* included with your sign and available on the [Technical Customer Support](#) page.

#### To power on the sign:

- A. Unlock and open the battery box compartment to access the sign power switch and activate your solar panel (if equipped).
- B. Flip the toggle switch inside the battery box to the ON position.

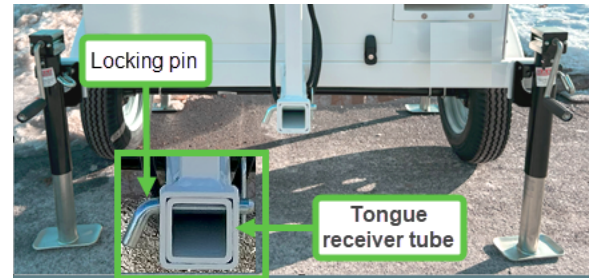


## Step 5: Securing the trailer

Use the steps in this section for help with securing the trailer. The trailer wheels come with pre-installed locking lug nuts (wheel locks). The key should be in the battery box.

### To secure the trailer:

- A. Make sure the trailer wheels are off the ground and the four jacks in position, as shown in *Step 2: Hooking up the trailer on page 5*.
- B. Pull the locking pin from the lifting handle and remove the handle from the trailer.
- C. Secure the lift handle inside the battery box.
- D. Remove the locking pin securing the trailer tongue inside the tongue receiver tube.
- E. Remove the trailer tongue from the tongue receiver and secure the locking pin back in place.
- F. Secure the trailer tongue inside the battery box.
- G. Close and lock the battery box to prevent tampering and the trailer will be ready for use.



## Packing up the trailer for redeployment

Use the steps in this section for help with packing up the trailer to move it to another location.



**WARNING: RISK OF CAPSIZING.** Leave all four jacks down at least far enough to prevent capsizing until you complete this procedure.



**CAUTION: Be careful and use two hands as you lower the upper frame. Move the handle slowly and apply pressure. The load shifts as the frame nears the stowed position.**

- A. Power down the sign. See *Step 4: Powering on the sign on the previous page*.
- B. Unlock the battery box where the trailer tongue and lift handle are stored and open the lid.
- C. Place the trailer's upper frame and solar panels in the folded travel position as follows:
  - i. Remove the lifting handle from storage inside the battery box.
  - ii. Slide the lifting handle into the lifting mount.
  - iii. Secure the handle in the mount using the locking pin.
  - iv. Pull the two locking pins holding the upper frame in the upright position.
  - v. Next, lower the upper frame. **Be careful and use two hands as you lower the upper frame. Move the handle slowly and apply pressure. The load shifts as the frame nears the stowed position.**
  - vi. Once the upper frame is folded down to the travel position, replace the locking pins to secure the frame in place and attach the rubber tie down (as shown below) on the front.





- vii. Rotate the solar panel into the travel position.
  - viii. If you have a 380W trailer, slide the second solar panel back into the travel position and secure it with the locking pins.
- D. Remove the locking pin from the tongue receiver tube (see photo [on the previous page](#))
  - E. Remove the trailer tongue from the battery box and slide it into the receiver tube.
  - F. Secure the tongue in the tongue mount using the locking pin.
  - G. Hook up the trailer to your tow vehicle for transport, as shown with an ATS 5 Trailer below, and detailed in [Step 2: Hooking up the trailer on page 5](#). Make sure you follow all of the steps in order.



**REMINDER:** Before you drive the trailer to your next location, crank the four jacks up, rotate them to the horizontal, stowed position (as shown), secure them in place, and make sure all connections are safe.



## Contacting Technical Customer Support

For support for your All Traffic Solutions products,

- » visit the Technical Customer Support page at <https://www.alltrafficsolutions.com/support/>,
- » send email to [support@alltrafficsolutions.com](mailto:support@alltrafficsolutions.com), or
- » call 1-866-366-6602, Option 2 anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday to Friday.

### Technical documentation and training

If you have a TrafficCloud subscription, please visit our [ATS Start-Up Guides](#) page for links to the most recent versions of our technical documentation, including the *Getting Started with TrafficCloud* series for the rest of our biggest-selling devices. If you don't have a subscription, please visit the Technical Customer Support page.

Please contact Technical Customer Support to discuss your TrafficCloud training options. For online training resources, please visit our [TrafficCloud Training Videos Hub](#).



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