

## Tips for Towing a Trailer

If you work in a park, campground, or similar location, you may be required to pull a trailer on your back road vehicle with a heavy load such as wood. When pulling a trailer, you must be especially careful to ensure that the trailer does not hit anything or get stuck in mud!

Before pulling a trailer, always check your **vehicle's owner's manual** to find the trailer types that your vehicle can haul and the maximum load weight it can pull.

Here are some more tips for driving on back roads with a trailer:

### Equipment

- **A strong hitch is essential**
  - Make sure it is installed so that when your trailer is attached and tightened, the tongue of your trailer tracks on a **horizontal plane** with the road.
  - Be sure your hitch is **welded or bolted to the frame** of your vehicle and has the correct **ball coupling**.
  - Connect **safety chains** (ensure that they are properly mounted).
- Check the **brake connections** to the trailer, and see that the **trailer lights** are in working order.
- Check **tires and tire pressure** and make sure that the trailer brakes are working by doing a brake test before getting underway. Trailer wheel bearing must be serviced annually.

### Starting

- **Always start slowly.**

### Turning

- When turning corners, **stay in the centre of your path.**
- On **right turns**, look in your right mirror, signal and slow down. Move forward until the vehicle's front wheels are well into the path, and then turn right.
- On **left turns**, signal and proceed slowly well into the path. Swing wide to allow for the trailer to track with adequate clearance.

### Passing

- **Avoid passing with a trailer.** Remember that your vehicle and trailer combination needs more room and more time to pass than a vehicle alone.
- On **two-way roads**, make sure you have adequate space to pass safely. Check your mirrors on both sides. Be well ahead of the vehicle to be passed before moving back into your path.

- **When being passed**, help other drivers to pass you where it is necessary.

### Stopping

- **Stop gradually**. A sudden stop may jack-knife the trailer.

### Backing Up

- **Always back up slowly**, with **small corrections** of the steering wheel.
- To back up a trailer **right**, place your hand at the bottom of the steering wheel and push it to the right.
- To back **left**, push the steering wheel to the left.
- **Practice** backing up in a safe open area like an empty parking lot.

### If Your Trailer Fishtails

- If your trailer begins to sway, or fishtail, **depress the accelerator slightly** and if available **apply the trailer brakes**. **Do not let up on the gas or apply the vehicle brakes**.

### Following Distance

- **Increase the time-interval following distance**. Add more seconds if conditions are adverse.