



GUIDE PORTAL: Trailer Checklist and Tips

Trailer Checklist

1. Have co-guide help back van up to trailer. Line up the hitch with the ball. This needs to be spot on (don't push the trailer on, it may not sit correctly on the ball and pop off when you're driving).
2. Lower hitch onto ball while holding the hitch pin in the open position. If the pin is not in the open position, it won't sit on the ball correctly.
3. Once trailer hitch is lowered on the ball, click trailer hitch pin into place and thread safety pin through the trailer pin hole.
4. Twist the safety chains 1-2 times then connect them to the hitch of the van. This will create a cradle if the trailer were to ever pop off, it would prevent it from dragging on the pavement. Please do not over twist the safety chains as this could cause them to fail.
5. Thread emergency break cable through the hitch and connect back to itself by the trailer. Do not thread it through the safety chains and do not leave a ton of slack in the cable or else it will fail. This is a good time to check the key in the emergency break box to make sure it's fully in (if it's partially out of the emergency break box, it could cause the emergency breaks on the trailer to engage).
6. Connect the 7-way power cord to the van. There is a tab on the plug that 'locks in' to the receiver on the van. Please make sure this is locked in place or else it will fall out and drag on the pavement, and you'll have no power to your trailer (no lights, signals, or breaks).
7. Make sure to crank the foot of the hitch all the way up. Put the blocks and wheel chucks in the back of the van!
8. Do a break light and signal check with your co guide to make sure everything is hooked up correctly.

Trailer Backing Tips & Tricks

- Start backing the van trailer as straight as possible, avoid starting with an angle between the van and the trailer.
- Make as minimal movements with the steering wheel as possible. Over steering and backing at the same time will cause you to become crooked and lose control over the backing motion of the trailer.
- Be aware of your surroundings (pedestrians, cyclists, fences, parked cars, etc.) If you are with a co guide, ask them to help see in your blind spots to make sure you do not hit anything.
- **If you feel like you are about to jack knife the trailer to the van please STOP DRIVING and either:**



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- **Get out and look at the situation (if safe to do so) to decide how to get yourself out of this pickle!**
- **PULL FORWARD**
- **Unhitch the van from the trailer to realign the van to the trailer. Re-hitch and try again.**
- Go slow and take your time, especially if you are nervous. Redirect the guests if they are staring at you while backing (sometimes, it doesn't help to have an audience). If your co guide is available to help redirect the guests, please have them do so.