

SPRING TRAILER READINESS CHECK

A 15-Minute Check That Prevents Most Roadside Problems



What We Check First: These are the systems most likely to cause roadside problems in spring - and the ones that matter most for safety and legal road use.

Tires

- ☐ Inflate to the max cold PSI on the sidewall
- ☐ Check DOT date: 7+ years: replace
- ☐ Inspect for bulges or deep sidewall cracks
- ☐ Measure tread: 4/32" is replacement range
- ☐ Confirm all tires match in size and rating
- ☐ Check valve stems for cracks or dry rot

Trailer Brakes (If Equipped)

- ☐ Brake controller detects the trailer
- ☐ Breakaway pin fully seated
- ☐ Manual override activates
- ☐ Breakaway battery charged

Required Trailer Lights

- ☐ Running lights
- ☐ Right turn signal
- ☐ Left turn signal
- ☐ Brake lights

What We See Wear Most Often: These usually don't fail from winter sitting - they wear from last season's towing. Spring is just when people finally look underneath.

Suspension

- ☐ Trailer sits level
- ☐ Shackles not excessively worn
- ☐ No cracked leaf springs
- ☐ Bushings intact

Wheel Hubs

- ☐ No grease leaking
- ☐ No visible damage
- ☐ Dust caps intact

Battery & Electrical

- ☐ Trailer battery charged
- ☐ No heavy corrosion on terminals
- ☐ Breakaway battery functional
- ☐ Junction Box Secure

Quick Hookup Check: These rarely degrade from sitting, but they're high consequence if they are wrong. We still confirm them every time.

Hitch & Coupler

- ☐ Correct ball size
- ☐ Safety pin installed
- ☐ Breakaway cable attached separately
- ☐ Coupler fully seated and latched
- ☐ Chains crossed
- ☐ Latch moves freely

Weight Distribution & Sway (If Equipped)

- ☐ Bars seated correctly
- ☐ Sway control attached and tensioned

Before You Hit the Road: Some issues only show up under load.

During the drive

- ☐ Brakes apply smoothly
- ☐ No pulling
- ☐ Trailer tracks straight
- ☐ No unusual clunking

After the drive

- ☐ Carefully feel each hub: Warm is normal, extremely hot is not
- ☐ Re-check lights
- ☐ Confirm lug nuts torqued
- ☐ No burnt smell
- ☐ Re-check tire pressure