

Caravan safety checklist

Before towing your caravan, use this handy checklist to make sure that your caravan is packed safely, and all brakes, lights and connectors function correctly to help ensure you have a safe trip.

Remember to plan your trip and include scheduled rest breaks to manage fatigue.

Brakes/Tyres:

- Caravan tyre pressure is correct to manufacturer's specifications
- Caravan spare wheel is packed and operational
- Wheel nuts are tightened to caravan manufacturer's specifications
- Wheel chocks and jack stands are working in case tyre changes are needed
- Caravan wheel bearings are correctly adjusted and lubricated
- Caravan wheels are not cracked, have no pieces of casting missing, or show any kind of deformation. Caravan tyres have at least 1.5 mm tread depth, and they have no deep cuts, bulges, exposed cords or other signs of carcass failure.
- Check brakes are operating correctly on ALL axles of the caravan
- Electric brakes (if fitted) are charged and the charging system is working

Lights:

- Caravan lights, number plate and registration are clearly visible
- Caravan light connections are secure and all lights are in working order

Towing:

- All towing components are in good order, not loose and with no cracks or substantial dents that may weaken the structure
- Safety chains are correctly connected to the vehicle as specified by the component manufacturer, and crossed over beneath the tow ball
- Front and rear corner stabilisers are in the up position

- Coupling socket and ball match each other in size
- Coupling is correctly and securely fastened

Load:

- The amount of load in the boot of the towing vehicle is minimised
- Load distribution between towing vehicle and the caravan are correct and properly balanced, front-to-rear and side-to-side
- The loaded mass does not exceed ANY of the:
 - Rated capacity of the towbar and tow coupling
 - Maximum towing capacity of the vehicle (GCM)
 - Maximum fully loaded carrying capacity of the caravan (ATM)
 - Maximum fully rated carrying capacity of the tyres

Final checks:

- Gas cylinders in the caravan are turned off and the refrigerator door is closed
- Any roll out awnings are stored away and locked in the travel position
- Roof hatches, windows, doors, and stone shields are secure
- 240v electrical cord has been disconnected and stored away
- TV antenna is in the travel position
- All loads are adequately restrained and there are no loose items in the caravan that could upset the balance of the caravan or cause harm
- Jockey wheel has been removed from clamp and stored in the boot of the car or caravan, or if it's a swivel mount, locked in the travel position
- For caravans over 2,000kg GTM, or if otherwise fitted, ensure the breakaway cable is connected and its battery is charged and functional
- Handbrake of caravan has been correctly released

For more information visit **transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety**
or contact us at **towardszero@transport.nsw.gov.au**

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Too many lives lost on NSW roads.
Our goal is zero.

