

# SAFETY FIRST

CHEAPaWAY Customer Safety Education

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Attaching a Trailer  
Attaching Electrical Lead Lights  
Operating a Jockey Wheel  
Towing a Trailer Safely  
Safe Trailer Loading

We are working continuously to improve safety and risk management across CHEAPaWAY Hire.

CHEAPaWAY has been helping Australians safely tow for over 5 years.

At CHEAPaWAY, we are aware towing is very different from everyday driving it requires additional driving skills and safety precautions.

That's why we provide education to drivers that they have a legal responsibility to other road users and themselves when towing a trailer.

We encourage drivers to check the vehicle and trailer are correctly equipped; and drive a vehicle and trailer combination safely.

A commitment to safety is our priority.

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## First time connecting a trailer?

In addition to the correct attachment of the trailer you must also check to ensure all of your wheel nuts are tight.



## ALWAYS CHECK

-  Check Wheel nuts are tight and safe to go. (Retighten and check regularly.)
-  Once the trailer plug is connected, check the lights are working.
-  Do you have a spare wheel and tyre changing gear?

(In the interests of safety it is strongly recommended that you carry a suitable spare wheel and the correct wheel wrench. In the event of a puncture etc. carrying the correct spare wheel and wheel wrench will allow an immediate changeover and quickly have you safely towing again.)

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## Attaching A Trailer

Connecting a trailer correctly is critical to safe towing, we will now show you the correct way to attach a trailer to your vehicle.

1.

First adjust the height of the trailer coupling using jockey wheel (if fitted) so there is sufficient clearance for the towball to pass under the trailer coupling. Then unlock safety/security latch on coupling, lift the handle and secure in the open position.



2.

Then reverse vehicle so towball is under cup of trailer hitch or close to trailer coupling if no jockey wheel - **never drag trailer to vehicle.**



3.

Lower trailer hitch using jockey wheel until cup is fully covering towball. If no jockey wheel, lift trailer drawbar and place coupling onto towball. If the trailer is heavy seek assistance.



4.

Lower handle of the trailer coupling and lock safety/security latch in place.



5.

Once trailer is securely attached raise jockey wheel and remove if it is a clamp-on or rotate and lock the jockey wheel into the horizontal position if it is a swing-up version.



6.

Securely attach safety chain using D shackle ensuring safety chain is sufficiently clear of the road surface but allowing free movement when turning corners.



7.

Should trailer be fitted with two safety chains then cross them prior to attaching to vehicle. The only remaining task is to connect the trailer lights to the vehicle.



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## Attaching Electrical Lead Lights

Before you can tow your trailer, you must connect the trailer lights to the vehicle's electrical system and check their operation.

1.

Connect the trailers electrical plug to the electrical socket on your vehicle, ensuring sufficient lead to allow the trailer and vehicle to turn, but keeping the lead well clear of the road surface.



2.

[ TIP ]

Threading any excess lead through the coupling handle will keep the cable clear and help prevent the lead from damage.



3.

Confirm the brake, tail and indicator lights are all working correctly.

You are now ready to tow you trailer safely.



## Operating Jockey Wheel

Here are some safety tips for using the jockey wheel.

1.

The Jockey Wheel must only be in the vertical position when the trailer is disconnected from the vehicle.



2.

*Swing-up Jockey Wheels* - once the trailer is safely connected to the vehicle wind the jockey wheel up so that is it clear of the ground, pull the handle to release the jockey wheel and rotate into the horizontal position.

*Clamp-on Jockey Wheels* - once the trailer is safely connected to the vehicle wind the jockey wheel up so that is it clear of the ground, undo the clamp and remove the jockey wheel, retighten the clamp and store the jockey wheel in a safe place.



3.

Swing up Jockey wheels must be in the horizontal position prior to towing the trailer. Never tow a trailer with the jockey wheel in the vertical position.



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## Towing A Trailer Safely

Towing a trailer is very different from driving your vehicle normally, here are some simple tips to ensure safety on the road.

1.

Reversing with a trailer takes getting used to, it's a good idea to have someone outside the vehicle helping you at first.



2.

Remember to allow for the extra length and width of your vehicle with trailer attached, especially around corners and in merging traffic and overtaking.



3.

Allow for the extra weight of trailer and load by ensuring you brake earlier when stopping, and also do not brake sharply in wet conditions. Allow for reduced performance of your vehicle due to trailer and load.



4.

Use smooth accelerator, brake and steering movements to avoid trailer sway.



5.

If sway occurs do not apply brakes unless absolutely required.



6.

Allow vehicle and trailer to slow down naturally or maintain steady speed if possible.



7.

When travelling downhill use a lower gear to avoid unnecessary brake heating and wear.





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## Safe Trailer Loading

It's important to load your trailer correctly and safely - here are some simple tips to help.

1.

The size of your load should be appropriate for the trailer size, if possible it should be completely enclosed within the trailer.



2.

If your load must extend outside the trailer dimensions - it must not extend more than 150mm over the trailer's width each side or be more than 2.5m total overall width.



3.

The overall length of vehicle and trailer can not be more than 19 meters. If your load extends more than 1.2 meters behind the trailer you must have a red or yellow flag 450mm square attached to the end of the load and clearly visible.



4.

Your load should be kept as low as possible and the weight as close as possible to the axle or axles, with about 70% of the weight forward of the trailer axle.



5.

When using a car trailer, the car must be loaded with the engine at the front of the trailer.



6.

Suitable tie down straps or chains should be used to secure the load ensuring it is kept within the confines of the trailer.

