

Trailer Hitching

SWP 1.082

RISKS AND HAZARDS ASSESSED

Risk: Hand Injuries, Road accidents, Braking distance compromised, Vehicle stability. Insecure load

Hazards: Pinch Points, Load imbalance causing swaying, Overloading, Incorrectly hitched to towing vehicle. Load security.

HITCHING

1. Line up your vehicle.
2. Set coupler to correct size for vehicle tow ball.
3. Raise the coupler.
4. Align the ball and coupler.
5. Lower the coupler onto the ball.
6. Latch the coupler and locate safety R Clip
7. Lift handle to check attachment is secure and latched correctly.
8. Attach the chains in a crisscross pattern.
9. Connect trailer plug.
10. Release trailer park brake & disengage reverse stop latch to allow trailer brake activation.



TRAILER INSPECTION

Before using any trailers the following must be inspected.

Check:

1. Trailer warrant of fitness and registration is current.
2. Brake lights & indicators are operational.
3. Tyres are in good condition and tyres are inflated correctly.
4. The vehicle tow ball and trailer coupler are the same size.

Note: Many trailers have dual sized couplers, these must be orientated the correct way to match the vehicle tow ball. Sizes are 1 inch & 7/8. Some couplers are 50mm. Ensure you have the correct size tow ball for the coupler.

If in doubt of Hitch or Brake system, refer to your manager.

ROAD SAFETY

1. Maximum speed when towing a trailer is 90km.
2. Do not overload the trailer.
3. Load placement. Do not overload the front or rear of the trailer as this will compromise vehicle stability and braking. Centre load to trailer with approximately 100kg loading on drawbar.
4. Do not exceed vehicle & trailer gross vehicle mass. (GVM) ask if you are not sure.
5. Increase your distance between you and the vehicle in front as braking distance is greater when towing a trailer.