

Trailer Checklist

By Taylor Peterson

- Inspecting the Trailer
 - The trailer should look square and straight.
 - Doors hang and swing properly.
 - All latches, hinges, and pins are snug and tight.
 - Make sure there's no rust on seams.
 - Check the floor with a knife for rot.
 - Mats should be in good shape, with nothing to catch feet on.
 - Chest and butt bars at the dividers and center boards should fit snugly.
 - There should be no sharp edges inside.
 - Make sure the tires have no cuts, bulges, worn treads or steel belts showing.
 - Inflate tires to the pounds of pressure listed on the tire.
 - Be sure brakes are working properly and adjusted for your loaded weight.
 - Make sure the ball is properly sized for your trailer.
 - Make sure the trailer sits level when hitched.
 - Hook the safety chains - can you cross them to eliminate any droop that might catch on something?
 - Plug in the electrical system and check running lights, brake lights and turn signals.
- Every Time You Go Out
 - Check the hitch for cracks and the bolts for signs of wear.
 - Make sure to anchor any tack firmly in place.
 - Ensure there is no rust in the receiver.
 - Make sure the ball is tight.
 - Check the electrical system, brakes, running lights, directionals, tire pressure and chains.
 - Check for hornet or wasp nests.
 - Make sure doors are all securely fastened.
- Items to Have When Traveling
 - Insurance card.
 - Registrations for both vehicle and trailer.

- Current inspection where needed.
- Coggins for horses and health papers for all animals.
- Items Useful to Have in the Trailer
 - Basic tool kit.
 - Jack or portable hydraulic lift.
 - Extra twine, double-ended snaps, knife (to cut the ropes), crowbar.
 - Human and animal first aid kits.
 - Longe whip, longe line, an extra cotton lead, a lead line with a chain and an extra halter, sheet or blanket for horses.
 - Proper cables.
 - Chocks for tires.
 - Flares.
 - Large container of fresh water for animals and/or coolant system breakdown.
 - Towing chain.
 - Muck bucket, broom, fork and/or shovel, rake.
 - Fire extinguisher.
 - Water and feed buckets, filled hay net for horses (safely hung and fastened so it doesn't swing).