

LAKE CANYON YACHT CLUB

TRAILER SAFETY REVIEW & CHECKLIST

Properly sized and installed Ball, Hitch, Coupler and Safety Chains are required for launching and recovery.

It is the responsibility of the owner/vehicle operator to understand the loads and install the proper Hitch, Ball, Coupler and Safety Chains and ensure that his/her boat does not become detached from the vehicle.

Here are some points and considerations gathered from TAC 37. 21.5 (d) and SAE J684 sec 7. These are not all inclusive and your boat and trailer may require additional safety measures.

If you are unsure of your Trailer and Boat combined Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW), you should determine it to ensure that your Hitch, Ball, Coupler and Safety Chains are sufficient.

The Trailer's Ball Coupler should be sized to the Ball being used and properly adjusted to minimize play and to prevent popping off. You should inspect the coupler and test it to ensure it is properly seated and attached. Use a Pin, Lock or Bolt to ensure that the Coupler locking lever is secured. Also ensure that the Ball is in good condition and properly bolted or attached to the Hitch.

Ensure that the Vehicle Hitch Bolt and Locking Pin are secured.

Safety chains should be sized to fit the job. Each link/piece in the chain must have an ultimate strength of not less than the gross vehicle weight (GVW) of the items being towed. Over-rated chains are OK.

Chains should have no more slack than is necessary to permit the vehicle to turn properly and should be attached to the sides of the trailer tow bar, equal lengths on either side. The S hook style chains are not recommended although they might be sufficient for a light-weight trailer & boat. Gated Clevis Hooks with chains are preferred. The hooks should be clipped to the vehicle's frame, not the receiving hitch, in a crossed fashion (to act as a cradle for the tow bar in the event of accidental release). The hooks should be gated for a better connection.

Avoid applications that alter the Hitch, Ball, Coupler, Chains and connections in any way. Welding, stretching links to accommodate bolts and twisting them to shorten the effective length reduces the overall chain strength. Safety Cables without additional Chains and Clevis Hooks are not recommended.

**LAKE CANYON YACHT CLUB
TRAILER CONNECTION GENERAL CONDITION
SELF-INSPECTION CHECK LIST**

Surface rust

Penetrating rust

Are any chain links stretched?

Is chain welded or any links damaged?

Any signs of wear, stress or chain drag?

If S-hook, are they are Gated?

Using Gated Clevis Hooks

Equal distance on either side of tow bar

Chains are Crossed (and not twisted)

Securely attached to side or top of trailer

Securely clipped to the vehicle frame

Both trailer and boat are insured