

RV HITCHING

The Ultimate RV Hitching Checklist

Hitch like a boss with our ultimate hitching checklist that covers everything from prep work to getting hitched, final safety checks, and more.

PRE-HITCHING

- Check that RV battery is fully charged.
- Fill propane bottle.
- Review proper lifting and loading techniques.

HITCH & VEHICLE READINESS

- Ensure there's nothing in the RV you're going to need.
- Make sure the space around your RV is clear of debris.
- Position chocks against wheels to keep RV still.
- Inspect hitch to ensure it's secure.
- Close all windows, awnings, vents, blinds and slide outs.
- Turn everything off. Shut down all your appliances and disconnect utilities like your A/C.
- Secure loose items. If anything looks like it could fall or shift during your haul, lay it down and consider padding sharp edges.
- Lock door behind you.

SUPPLIES

- Shovel
- Lubricants
- Fuses
- Wheel chocks
- Leveling boards/blocks
- Rubber blocks
- RV power cord adapter
- Extra potable water hose
- Black and gray flush hoses
- Tank deodorizer
- Velcro strips, rope or tie-downs
- Rags
- Generator fuel
- Flashlight with full battery

The Ultimate RV Hitching Checklist cont.

HITCH & VEHICLE READINESS cont.

- Stow steps and anything else that can be folded, such as stabilizers.
- Latch and secure sliding trays.
- Take down any antennas or satellite dishes.
- Empty water tanks and close tank valves.
- Add necessary chemicals and small amount of water to black tanks.
- Ensure tow vehicle has full gas tank.
- Check all other tow vehicle fluid levels.
- Check RV's fill levels and make sure all tanks are empty. Never tow with filled tanks.
- Tighten bolts on hitch of tow vehicle.
- Unlock hitch and open receiver latch.
- Lower jacks on front of trailer so ball can be guided onto receiver.
- *Fifth wheel only: Remove king pin lock. Lower towing vehicle tailgate and close door to front storage compartment. Grease hitch mechanism.

GETTING HITCHED

- Hitch RV to tow vehicle.
- Hook up RV's breakaway cable.
- String any needed electrical wiring between RV and tow vehicle.
- Connect any sway bars.
- Attach safety chains in crisscross (X) formation.
- Raise up jacks.
- Remove blocks from under jacks if you have them.

PRO TIP — After you've addressed all your levels, you'll likely want to weigh in again. Don't hitch up until you know you're within the acceptable weight range.

FINAL SAFETY CHECKS

- Walk around rig to ensure everything is safe.
- Ensure there are no loose items.
- Ensure there are no unlocked doors.
- Ensure there are no unlocked windows.
- Check RV brakes via indicator light on brake controller.
- Check brake lights of tow vehicle.
- Check brake lights of trailer.
- Check headlights.
- Check that turn signals illuminate on tow vehicle.
- Check that turn signals illuminate on trailer.
- Check visibility from driver's seat.
- Adjust mirrors.

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