

## **Fifth Wheel Trailer Checklist. RV-1 Author Lester Evans offers:**

April 21, 2009 by [Fred Brandeberry](#) ·

### **Storage site Departure & Hitching Trailer to Truck:**

1. Position truck a few feet in front of trailer.
  2. Move truck mirrors to the **OUT** position for trailer towing.
  3. Lower truck tailgate.
  4. Remove & stow trailer wheel covers.
  5. Verify all trailer interior lights are OFF.
  
  6. Verify all trailer windows are closed.
  7. Verify everything inside trailer is secured for travel.
  8. Close refrigerator doors for travel.
  9. Close & lock trailer access door.
  10. Put access door handrail in travel position.
  11. Put doorsteps up into travel position.
  12. Tilt truck hitch plate towards rear of truck.
  13. Verify truck hitch **security** latch is unlocked & open.
  14. Slowly back truck to the trailer so that the rear of the truck hitch is close to the trailer hitch connection, then stop the truck.
  15. Check the height of the trailer as compared to the truck hitch.
  16. Unlock & open the front jack control panel door.
  17. If necessary, using the front jack electric control switches, adjust the trailer height until the trailer kingpin plate is even with the truck hitch plate.
- NOTE: EXTEND jacks to Raise trailer.  
RETRACT jacks to Lower trailer.**
18. Continue backing the truck until trailer kingpin locks into truck hitch; then stop truck.
  19. Verify truck hitch jaws lock around trailer kingpin.
  20. Verify hitch latch bar is in the fully locked position.
  21. Close hitch latch bar **security** latch.
  22. Attach a padlock to hitch latch bar **security** latch and the trailer breakaway switch pin **cable**.
  23. Connect trailer electric cable to the truck.
  24. Close truck tailgate.
  25. Using front jack electric control switches, **RETRACT** front trailer jacks to the full up position.

26. Close & Lock front jack control panel door.
27. Pull out lock pins from trailer jack and raise jack feet to the full up position so there is plenty of clearance for travel.
28. Ensure lock pins fully engage into front trailer jacks.
29. Remove and stow front jack wood support pads.
30. Remove and stow trailer wheel locks.
31. Verify all outside storage compartments doors are closed & locked.
32. Perform an operations check of truck & trailer lights.

**WARNING: Do not move trailer if trailer brakes fail to operate.**

33. Test trailer brakes with **Electric Brake Controller** as follows:
  - Start truck engine
  - Disengage truck emergency brake
  - Apply trailer brakes with switch on brake controller
  - Attempt to drive truck forward
  - Trailer brakes should keep trailer & truck from moving
  - If trailer brakes fail to operate, have the trailer brakes repaired by a qualified mechanic
  - Release trailer brake controller switch
  - Trailer brakes should allow truck & trailer to move
34. Test **Trailer Breakaway System** as follows:
  - Pull out the Breakaway switch pin that is attached to a cable lanyard
  - This activates trailer electric brakes
  - Attempt to drive forward
  - If Breakaway systems is operating properly, the trailer **wheels should not rotate**
  - If trailer wheels rotate, have the trailer brakes repaired by a qualified mechanic
  - Insert the pin back into the Breakaway switch
  - Attempt to drive forward
  - The trailer **wheels should rotate**

**Happy Camping:**

**Fred b.**

**rv101buyfred.com**