

Trailer Rental Hookup & Return Checklist

Get the trailer, the plate, and the hookup documented before it leaves and reconciled at return

Run this list before a trailer goes out and again when it comes back. It pairs with the Trailer Rental Agreement. Full guide: clearlegaltips.com/trailer-rental-agreement-template/

BEFORE THE RENTAL

- ☐ The trailer's registration and plate are current in the owner's name
- ☐ The VIN, plate number and state, and title state are written on the agreement
- ☐ The renter confirmed in writing whether the tow vehicle's insurance covers a trailer in tow
- ☐ The deposit, rate, and return time are agreed in writing
- ☐ The agreement is signed and dated by both sides, with signer title if the renter is a business

AT HOOKUP

- ☐ The trailer's FMVSS certification label is present
- ☐ The hitch ball size matches the trailer coupler
- ☐ The tow vehicle is rated for the loaded trailer (GVWR and combined weight)
- ☐ The lights are connected and tested, brake and turn
- ☐ The safety chains are crossed and secured, and a brake controller is present if the trailer has brakes
- ☐ The tires are checked for pressure and wear
- ☐ The trailer is photographed with the VIN and plate in frame

DURING THE RENTAL

- ☐ Any incident, damage, or theft is reported the same day, in writing
- ☐ A stolen trailer is reported to the police with the VIN and plate the same day

AT RETURN

- ☐ The trailer comes back hitched down, in agreed condition
- ☐ Return condition is checked against the pickup photos
- ☐ Any plate-linked toll or ticket during the term is reconciled and billed to the renter
- ☐ The deposit is refunded, less any documented charges

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This checklist is general information, not legal advice. Laws vary by state and change over time. A trailer is treated as a registered, plated, and often titled vehicle in most states, and whether an auto policy follows a trailer in tow depends on the policy, so confirm coverage in writing before the trailer moves. The full guide and official sources are at clearlegaltips.com/trailer-rental-agreement-template/