



Trailer Reversing Checklist



Preparation at home

- Check over safety gear, battery and fuel levels.
 - Check vessel is secured properly.
 - Inspect the trailer hitch and ensure it is securely attached to the towing vehicle.
 - Release trailer break - if fitted
 - Open brake isolator - if fitted (allows brake application)
 - Check that safety chains are crossed & properly connected.
 - Confirm that trailer lights and brake connections are connected & functioning
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Before Launching - near the ramp NOT on it

- Close brake isolator - if fitted (eliminates brake application)
 - Ensure the boat's bungs are installed
 - Remove all straps EXCEPT winch strap.
 - Load all gear, including your Marine Licence, before entering the ramp
 - Prepare lines to be able to tie to jetty.
 - Verify that the ramp area is clear of obstacles and other vehicles.
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Position on the ramp.

- Align the vehicle with the trailer as straight as possible with the ramp before reversing.
- Adjust side mirrors to have a clear view of both sides of the trailer, or rear corners of vehicle for small trailers
- Roll down windows for better visibility and communication if using a buddy.



Reversing your trailer - use your mirrors!

- Place one hand at the top of the steering wheel to simplify direction control
 - Trailer showing in **right mirror** - take top of wheel to the **right**.
 - Trailer showing the **left mirror** - take top of wheel to the **left**.
 - Reverse slowly and steadily, making small steering adjustments.
 - Use mirrors frequently to monitor trailer alignment.
 - If the trailer begins to jackknife, stop, pull forward to straighten, and try again.
 - Keep the trailer wheels aligned with the ramp centre line
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Launching

- Stop when the trailer wheels are submerged enough for the boat to float.
 - Engage the parking brake and shift the vehicle into park.
 - Disconnect the winch strap carefully.
 - Use ropes or a guide pole to control the boat as it floats off the trailer.
 - Move the vehicle and trailer promptly to the parking area
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Post Launch

- Double-check that the boat is secure at the dock or launch area.
 - Park the vehicle and trailer in the designated area.
 - Inspect the trailer for any damage or loose components before leaving
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Handy Tips

- Practice in an empty car park
- Have a spotter/buddy to guide you
- Don't turn wheel too quickly or reverse too fast.