**Trailer Checklist**

CHECK:

* Oil, fluid levels, belts on tow vehicle.
* Hitch on tow vehicle for loose or cracked welds and bolts.
* Trailer for rust in receiver.
* Tow vehicle for loose ball.
* Both vehicles for loose or broken electrical connectors.
* Signal and brake lights on trailer.
* Safety chains and hooks and places they connect.
* Tire pressure on tow vehicle, trailer and spare tires.
* Tire changing equipment to fit trailer and vehicle tires.
* Dual tires – hit inside tire with hammer, hammer will bounce back if air pressure is okay.
* Interior for wasp and hornet nests – they can appear within a week!
* Tow vehicle registration form.
* Insurance card.
* Trailer registration with current inspection stamp.
* Coggins test and health papers required for horses.

EACH MONTH:

* Clean and inspect your trailer (so it will be ready to go when you are)
* Clean inside and out with soap and water
* Wash and wax trailer exterior
* Check tires for cuts and uneven wear
* Check wheels, bearings and brakes
* Check quick releases mechanisms and D rings where they attach to trailer
* Check floor mats; inspect and clean floors with mats removed
* Check lubrication of nose wheel, hitch assembly and tailgate mechanism (especially if stored outside)
* Check center partition, lubricate groove  
  bolts and rump chain or bars for easy  
  removal in an emergency
* Check surface rust and sharp edges that  
  may be developing, touch up with paint  
  and repair when needed.

AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR:

* Inspection date, register in the appropriate month (if required)
* Insurance coverage
* Condition of springs (for cracks)
* Condition of all wiring, bulbs, lenses and reflectors
* All channel iron supporting the floor for rust or cracks
* The underside of the floor for dry rot by scraping and probing with a knife
* Tread and condition of tires, including the spare
* Ramps and hinge for sag or rust – oil hinges
* Tailgate and threads on screw-type clamps for wear, replace if beginning to strip
* Braking system, including shoes
* Wheel bearings (repack)
* Wood floor planks (seal with a wood preservative)

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR TRAILER:

* Tool Kit – including:
  + Sturdy knife to cut tie ropes in an emergency
  + Crowbar (essential in case of need to remove center divider quickly)
  + Screw driver, pliers, hammer, wrench, etc.
  + Extra bulbs for trailer light
  + Fuse (20 amp)
  + Extra pin for hitch of tow vehicle
  + First Aid Kit – human and equine (see Horse Management Handbook for list)
  + Small pail and sponge or cloth
  + Extra cotton and leg wraps
  + Jumper cables
  + Spare tire and jack for tow vehicle and trailer
    - Two chocks or blocks to put behind front and back tires when parked
    - Towing chain
    - Flares – in case of breakdown (for road warning)
    - Large container of fresh water – can be used for horses, first aid treatment or some car problems
    - Longe line, extra lead line and halter, sheet or blanket
    - Broom, shovel, fork, rake, manure disposal bags (leave-parking areas clean)
    - Hay and feed needed for trip
    - Water and feed buckets, hay net (fastened so it won’t swing around or  
      drop too low) – with fresh hay for each trip
    - Chains and hooks for putting up buckets and stall guard if staying overnight
    - Maps, directions and phone number  
      needed