

Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust - Experiencing Marine Reserves -Trailer Policy - 2013

For coordinators/contractors/trustees who will be towing/storing MTSCT trailers

Before you tow...



Make sure you have your own third party vehicle insurance



Ensure that you read those parts of the NZ Road Code pertaining to towing trailers.



Please also read the information below.

Before moving off with your trailer...



Check that you have lifted the stands



Check that you have connected your trailer to your tow bar



Check that your lock pin is in place and locked down so that trailer can not pop off tow bar



Check that you have fitted your D pin shackle with chain



Connect your lights and make sure they are working

When driving your trailer...



Ensure that you read those parts of the NZ Road Code pertaining to towing trailers and note the maximum speed for a light vehicle towing a trailer on the open road is 90 km/h. **Warning** – Be aware of the reduced stopping distance of the vehicle due to the weight of the trailer

When you park your trailer...



Check that it is a safe place to park



If you have to disconnect, make sure the parking surface is level, secure your trailer, put down the stands and chock your wheels



You need to brief students not to enter the trailer and adults to enter with caution under your instruction



Brief your group to take care around the trailer (watch out for hitting your head etc on back of trailer)

Care of trailer...



Make sure your trailer is kept locked (tow pin and trailer contents) and secure at all times



Regularly clean your trailer with freshwater (once a week when in use and before storing your trailer, mild detergent can be used to remove any mould and this should be removed regularly)



When storing the trailer for long periods, cover the trailer with a tarpaulin to protect the canvas and signwriting from UV degradation, and keep an eye out for pests and carry out pest control if needed, e.g. rats, mice & ants might move in.

Report any problems with trailer to programme director Samara Nicholas samara@emr.org.nz 09 433 8205

Approved by Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust:

7 August 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vince Kerr'.

Signed: Vince Kerr - Chairperson

Towing - From the NZ Road Code <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode/about-driving/towing.html>

On a learner or restricted car licence ([Class 1](#)) you can tow a trailer but the combined weight of your vehicle, the trailer and its load must not exceed 4500kg. On a full licence the combined weight of your vehicle, the trailer and its load must not exceed 6000kg.

You must take extra care when towing a trailer or another vehicle. This is because, with the extra weight behind it, your vehicle will feel different to drive.

Follow the safe towing guidelines below whenever you tow a trailer or another vehicle.

Note: the term 'trailer' includes caravans, boat and horse trailers.

Important

If you are towing a trailer or another vehicle, check your rear-view mirror often to make sure you aren't holding up vehicles behind you.

Safe towing guidelines

- Refer to the car manufacturer's recommendations before towing a trailer, in particular the weight limits recommended.
- Refer to the loading limits for the tow bar you are using.
- Be aware that overloading and uneven loading of car trailers can seriously affect a car's handling.
- When driving a light vehicle (for example, a car or light truck), you must not tow more than one trailer or vehicle at a time.
- You must be able to see behind the towed trailer or vehicle. If you can't see behind with your rear-view mirrors, you may need to fit a special mirror.
- There must be no more than 4 metres between your vehicle and the trailer or vehicle it is towing.
- The maximum speed for a light vehicle towing a trailer on the open road is 90 km/h.
- The maximum speed for towing a motorcycle is 30 km/h.
- You must not tow a motorcycle unless it is mechanically disabled.
- At night, the back of the trailer/towed vehicle must show a red light.
- If you're towing a disabled vehicle at night, its headlights must light up the towing connection.
- Remember, you will be slower and less stable than other traffic when towing. Check behind often to see if other vehicles are held up behind you.
- If the road is winding or narrow and vehicles can't pass you, stop at a safe place and let them pass.
- Leave more space than usual between your vehicle and the one in front, so that others can pass you.
- Remember that the added weight behind you means you will need more space to stop. Increase your [following distance](#) from two seconds to four seconds.
- The towing connection and safety chain or cable that holds the trailer/vehicle must be secured.
- If you are towing another vehicle without a rigid towing system, e.g. with a rope or a strop, the maximum allowable speed is 50km/h.
- If you are towing another vehicle with a rigid towing connection the maximum speed is 90km/h.