

## Common mistakes when renting a pontoon trailer

- Verify the pontoon is loaded so centered on the trailer. So often renters end up getting a flat tire. The reason is because the pontoon was not loaded properly and centered. Then, the tire sidewall will rub on the pontoon and eventually go flat.
- Recheck after driving a few blocks that the load is still centered and secured. If the loads shifts, the same outcome of a flat tire will arise.
- Watch your speed! The tires and bearings on these trailers are not rated for high speeds. This has resulted many times in renters replacing an entire hub. Excessive speeds will "spin" and overheat a bearing resulting in failure.
- Do not travel with the scissor section in the down position. Strictly up with locking pin in place. If this is not done it could result in the cable fraying or breaking. The manufacture's of this trailer did not design the trailer for this kind of misuse.
- The trailer jack has been designed to accommodate short and tall hitch heights. Take note there are two posts on the jack to mount it to the trailer with. One of the posts can be used for raising and lowering the hitch and also in the stowed position when towing. The other post is strictly for raising and lowering the hitch.

# TRAILER INSTRUCTION SHEET

## **Safety Rules:**

- Load your trailer with 60% of the weight in front of center of axle(s) of the trailer and 40% behind that center. Secure the load to prevent shifting.
- The total weight of the load and trailer must not exceed the towing vehicle's rated towing capacity.
- Check hitch installation. Including safety chains after loading and unloading the trailer. Do not disconnect the trailer from the towing vehicle.
- If swaying occurs, reduce speed gradually – DON'T HIT YOUR BRAKE PEDAL HARD! Pull over and adjust your load with more weight toward the front.
- If the combination travels off the paved roadway, hold the steering wheel firmly. Let off the gas pedal DO NOT apply your brakes. DO NOT turn sharply. Slow down below 25 mph. Then gradually turn the steering wheel to get back on the roadway. Proceed with caution when entering traffic.
- Drive SLOW (45 mph) and allow extra time and distance for braking, stopping, passing and changing lanes. Stay in the right lane(s).
- ANTICIPATE STOPS! Allow a 5 second gap between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- NEVER allow passengers in any trailer and never load cargo on the outside of the trailer.
- Use mirrors if your vision is obstructed by the trailer or load.
- State law requires driver to ensure safe hook up and load tie down.
- Customer is responsible for flats.
- Customer responsible for damaged/missing chains, hooks and straps.

The guideline, tips and instruction in this instruction sheet are common-sense suggestion designed to promote towing safety and efficiency. Compile from literature of leading experts in the field, they are believed to be reliable, and are offered as suggestions and illustration to deal principally with common practices, nor to supplant or replace other additional precautionary measures to cover usual or unusual conditions or situations where common sense might dictate something else. Accordingly, the American Rental Association, its member rental firms, and ARA Insurance Services and its agents disclaim all liability for and make no warranty or guarantee of the accuracy or applicability of these instructions in any situation.