

Driver's Pre-Trip Checklist

Built By A Driver | Print it, keep it in the cab, check it off every trip

ENGINE & FLUIDS

- ☐ Oil, coolant, and power steering levels
- ☐ Belts and hoses: no cracks, fraying, or leaks
- ☐ No fluid leaks under the truck
- ☐ Battery connections tight and clean

TIRES & WHEELS

- ☐ Sidewalls: no bulges, cuts, or exposed cord
- ☐ Tread depth and even wear
- ☐ Pressure checked cold with a gauge
- ☐ Duals: both tires holding air
- ☐ Lug nuts present, none loose or rust-streaked

BRAKES & AIR SYSTEM

- ☐ Build air pressure and listen for leaks
- ☐ Brake chambers and slack adjusters look secure
- ☐ Air lines and gladhands: no cuts or rubbing
- ☐ Brake pads/drums: no obvious damage

COUPLING

- ☐ Fifth wheel jaws fully locked on kingpin
- ☐ Release arm seated, locking pin in place
- ☐ Tug test: pull gently against the trailer
- ☐ Landing gear fully raised, handle secured
- ☐ Air and electrical lines hooked up, not dragging

LIGHTS & REFLECTORS

- ☐ Headlights, high beams, turn signals
- ☐ Brake lights and four-way flashers
- ☐ Every marker and clearance light working
- ☐ Reflective tape and reflectors clean and intact

TRAILER & LOAD

- ☐ Walk the full trailer: doors, latches, hinges
- ☐ Seal number matches paperwork
- ☐ Load secured, no shifting, weight where it belongs
- ☐ Mud flaps, bumper, and landing gear undamaged
- ☐ Photos taken: paperwork, seal, trailer, freight

CAB & SAFETY GEAR

- ☐ Mirrors adjusted, glass and windshield clean
- ☐ Wipers, washer fluid, horn, defroster work
- ☐ Gauges normal, no warning lights
- ☐ Seat belt and steering feel right
- ☐ Fire extinguisher, triangles, and flashlight on board

PAPERWORK

- ☐ License, medical card, and registration on hand
- ☐ Insurance and permits current
- ☐ Logs/ELD ready and hours checked
- ☐ Bills of lading and trip plan in order
- ☐ Parking plan and backup stop picked out

Rule of thumb: if you are not sure, Get Out And Look.

A two-minute walkaround is cheaper than a roadside repair, a violation, or a claim.
Fix it or report it before you roll.

General reference only. It does not replace the inspection required by federal and state regulations, your carrier's procedures, or your CDL training. Always follow the rules that apply to you.

More driver tips and tools: truckersresourcehub.com