

Pre-trip checklist:



- Tire Inspection:**
Cold weather affects tire pressure, impacting stopping distance and fuel efficiency. Check for proper inflation, evaluate tread depth, and inspect tires for cuts, bubbles, or gouges. Adequate tire tread is crucial for maintaining control on snow or icy surfaces.
- Lights and Reflectors Check:**
Ensure all exterior lights, turn signals, and warning lights are functional. Clean lenses for maximum visibility and inspect reflectors for cracks or missing pieces. Clear visibility is vital during winter driving conditions.
- Brake Examination:**
Assess both internal and external components of the brake system. Verify proper adjustment, inspect brake linings, and check for damage or leaks in air lines. Ensure the functionality of air brakes, parking brakes, and hydraulic braking systems.
- Engine Inspection:**
Examine various engine components, including the radiator, air compressor, steering gearbox, water pump, belts, hoses, and wiring. A well-maintained engine is crucial for reliable winter driving.
- Fuel Tank and Battery Check:**
Visually inspect the fuel tank and battery for cracks or leaks. Verify battery levels for sufficient power and proper charging, ensuring a reliable start in cold weather.
- Fluid Inspection:**
Check for fluid leaks under the truck, including fuel, oil, coolant, power steering fluid, brake fluid, and windshield washer fluid. Assess fluid levels and inspect hoses, belts, and wires for safety.
- Windshield:**
Ensure a clear line of sight by repairing or replacing chipped or cracked windshields. Check wipers for wear, as they are crucial for visibility in rain or snow.
- Emergency Kit:**
Equip your truck with road flares, triangles, and a functional fire extinguisher. These items are essential for emergencies and should be easily accessible and regularly inspected.
- Mirrors with Swivel Mounts:**
Prevent hazards by ensuring mirrors are not frozen or loose, allowing proper adjustments to cover blind spots.
- Coupling System Assessment:**
Thoroughly examine the coupling system, focusing on the kingpin, sliding fifth wheel locking pin, and various components ensuring a secure trailer connection.
- Cabin Inspection:**
Check seat belts, mirrors, steering wheel, pedals, and other cabin elements for wear or malfunctions. Properly functioning controls are crucial to reduce stress and distraction while driving.
- Trailer Examination:**
Inspect the trailer for mechanical defects that could affect secure mounting to the tractor, paying attention to various components such as the headboard, frame, release pins, and doors.
- Back of the Truck Inspection:**
Before hooking up to a trailer, ensure the back of the truck is in top condition, including properly inflated tires, undamaged brake chambers, and a well-greased fifth wheel.

Have a safe haul!