# Safe Towing Techniques

A visual inspection should only take a few minutes and can prevent damage, accidents and lost time.

**Even though our staff may hook the trailer up for you,**
**it is the driver's responsibility**
**to check that all is in order before moving off, including:**

**Pre-Tow Procedures**

- The tow vehicle's tow capacity is rated at or above the weight of the trailer and load.
- Where the trailer is equipped with an electric/electronic brake system (required on all trailers with a GTM of 2000kg or greater), the tow vehicle must have an electric brake controller in the vehicle.
- The trailer has a spare wheel fitted and that all tyres are inflated to correct PSI and free from damage (including the spare).
- That the trailer coupling is securely attached to the towbar, and latched.
- That trailer safety chains are also securely attached to the tow bar, and that the shackle pins are nipped up tight - these chains should be attached with a minimum of slack (but enough to allow the trailer to turn). Where a pair of chains is fitted, cross them under the drawbar before attaching them to the towbar.
- All trailer lights are operational. We can supply plug adaptors where necessary.
- The trailer handbrake is off - trailers fitted with brakes are also fitted with a handbrake, which forms part of the tow coupling.
- Ensuring that on trailers fitted with override brakes, that the collar positioned directly behind the coupling release handle is flipped outwards, otherwise the brakes will not function.

  **When reversing the trailer** this collar should be flipped back over the coupling shaft otherwise the brakes will be applied. When on the move (forwards) again flip the collar out again.

- you have tyre changing tools with you - the tow vehicle's jack should be sufficient for the trailer, and if the wheel brace won't fit the wheel nuts to our trailer, we will gladly loan you one free of charge.

**Loading the trailer**

- Load the trailer so that there is positive weight on the drawbar/towbar (approximately 50-75kg). NEVER load the trailer in such a way that there is negative weight on the towbar as it is dangerous and will lead to the instability of the trailer and tow vehicle.
- Do not overload your vehicles, or the trailer.
- Ensure the load is properly secured.