

TOW DOLLY SAFETY



INTRODUCTION

Tow dollies are short, two wheeled trailers that elevate another vehicle to allow it to be towed. Employees who use a tow dolly at work are required to observe all applicable safe work practices.

SAFE PRACTICES

Employees must first be trained and authorized by their employer to use a tow dolly before using one at work. If you are unsure of anything, verify that it is done correctly before attempting to transport a vehicle with a tow dolly. The following safe work practices must also be observed:

- When attaching a tow dolly, follow the manufacturer's securement instructions exactly.
- Employees should never attempt to tow a vehicle that weighs more than the tow vehicle. A general rule is that the tow vehicle must be **750 pounds** or more than the vehicle-in-tow.
- Vehicles-in-tow must be loaded facing forward as directed by the tow dolly manufacturer.
- Cargo must not be loaded inside the vehicle-in-tow or on the tow dolly during transport because extra weight may cause swaying.
- Do not load the vehicle-in-tow onto the tow dolly until the dolly is properly attached to the tow vehicle.
- Once loaded, safety chains and securement straps must be applied.
- Passengers are not permitted to ride inside the vehicle-in-tow.

FINAL CHECKLIST

Do not use a tow dolly unless you can perform all the necessary steps to properly secure both the vehicle to the dolly, and secure the dolly to the tow vehicle. After setting up and before towing, verify that:

- The towing hitch and the hitch-ball are tight.
- The coupler wheel latch is tight.
- All safety chains and tire straps are attached correctly and not dragging on the ground.
- The lights are connected and functioning correctly.
- All tires have adequate pressure.
- The vehicle-in-tow is facing forward.
- The ramps are stored securely.



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DRIVING

- Always wear your seatbelt and observe all driving laws in your area.
- Reduce your speed when driving with a tow dolly, whether there is a vehicle-in-tow attached at the time, or not.
- Reduce speed even further when travelling downhill, on curves, or in poor weather conditions.
- Pay attention when driving and increase your safety by anticipating stops, braking early, and keeping an adequate amount of space between your vehicle and other vehicles.
- If whipping or sway occurs, do not jerk the wheel, apply your brakes, or speed up. Let off the gas and continue holding the steering wheel straight ahead.



CONCLUSION

Using a tow dolly incorrectly can be extremely dangerous. That is why safe work practices regarding tow dollies are required to be observed at all times. Employees who fail to do so will not only be putting themselves in danger, but everyone else who shares the roadway as well.

