

COUPLING AND UNCOUPLING

Proper coupling and uncoupling is an essential process to a successful career as a professional truck driver. Staying focused and completing each step is the only way to be assured the truck and trailer is secure. Shortcuts will lead to disaster and small mistakes can quickly grow into big problems. Don't be complacent with the process. Do it right every single time.

Steps for successful coupling:

1. Inspect fifth wheel and kingpin for worn or damaged parts.
2. Position the tractor straight in front of the trailer to align king pin with the fifth wheel.
3. Check the height of the trailer to insure contact between fifth wheel and apron.
4. Back slowly, when the trailer starts to cover the frame of the tractor STOP, set the brakes and double check the height of the trailer.
5. Once height is verified, back slowly under trailer until the kingpin locks into the 5th wheel.
6. Check the connection with a tug test.
7. Set the brakes, turn the truck off.
8. Connect the air lines and electrical cord.
9. Check the connection by using a flashlight, looking into the 5th wheel and verify the 5th jaws are locked around the kingpin.



10. Roll up landing gear completely.

If a complete process is completed each and every time the chances of problems and failures don't exist.