

## Trailer Security Guide

You requested this Trailer Security Guide from [www.trailerlock.com](http://www.trailerlock.com) (The Trailer Keeper website). Thank you for expressing an interest in trailer security!

If more people like you took an interest in protecting their trailers, all of us would benefit. We would enjoy lower insurance rates and peace of mind knowing our valuable property is adequately protected from theft.

Trailer theft is a big problem and it's getting worse! To a thief, an unsecured trailer is money on wheels just asking to be stolen.

There are definite steps you can take that will deter theft but, as you know, nothing is totally fool proof. The vast majority of thieves are looking for an easy heist and if presented with an effective theft deterrent will move on to easier targets....namely the other guy's unsecured trailers that are just waiting to be stolen.

For thieves, their two biggest enemies are time and noise. Anything you can do to slow them down and make them generate noise will definitely improve your chances of keeping your valuable property.

Here are some steps you can take:

- Park your trailer where it is least visible to people passing by. If it's out of site, it's out of mind.
- Don't park your trailer with the tongue pointing toward the street, road or highway - it's just an invitation for thieves to take your trailer.
- Remove one or all of the trailer wheels. Take the lug nuts too. Thieves frequently carry spares with them.
- Use a chain or cable to secure your trailer to a tree, post or other stationary object.

Obviously, you may not want to take the time to remove a wheel every time you park your trailer and you may not have access to a tree or post. For most of us, the use of some sort of trailer security device is the answer. When you're on the road with your trailer, using a security device is the only answer.

Trailer security devices fall into two basic categories.

- 1) Hitch-coupler locks
- 2) Wheel locks

Although hitch-coupler type locks provide some measure of theft deterrence, thieves can defeat them very quickly and with very little noise. Here's how they do it.

Thieves simply use a rope or chain to attach the "locked" coupler to their tow vehicle and pull your trailer out of sight. Some thieves even carry a device which clamps over the "locked" coupler making it just that much easier and quicker for them to defeat the coupler lock and steal your

trailer.

Law enforcement and insurance professionals recommend wheel locks. It's easy to see why. If thieves can't move your trailer because one of the wheels is properly secured, it's going to be tough to steal your trailer. Remember....time....noise.

If you take nothing else from this security guide, please remember the following regarding wheel locks:

A wheel lock must automatically prevent removal of the wheel on which it is installed. Many wheel locks available today just clamp onto the wheel and are not designed to prevent wheel removal. Those type wheel locks are very easy to defeat.

Think about it. Any thief with a lug wrench (isn't there one in every car and pickup) can simply remove your trailer wheel with the lock still attached to the wheel. Then, the thief places a spare tire (many times it's "your" spare tire) on your trailer and drives away with your rig---leaving behind your wheel with the lock still attached.

If you've got a tandem-axle or tri-axle trailer, thieves don't even need a spare tire to steal your trailer. They can tow your trailer away on the remaining three or five wheels. So now you're left with a wheel, a wheel lock and no trailer.

Remember, a wheel lock must prevent removal of the wheel to which it is attached. Otherwise, it can be easily and quickly defeated.

Now, here is an important tip regarding the use of a wheel lock. We recommend that you always install the wheel lock on the "driver's side" of your trailer. There are two very good reasons for this recommendation:

1. If potential thieves back their tow vehicle to your trailer with the intent to steal it, as they open the driver's side door of the tow vehicle and look back at your trailer, they will "see" the wheel lock, if you've installed it on the driver's side. Most thieves, after seeing that you have installed a wheel lock, quickly move on at this point to search for an easier target...an unsecured trailer.
2. Installing your wheel lock on the driver's side of the trailer helps remind "you" to remove the wheel lock before using your trailer.

Thanks again for requesting our free Trailer Security Guide. Remember....time....noise. Secure it and keep it. Ignore it and lose it. Please don't wait until it's too late.

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