

Fifth Wheel Towing Unit Installation/Operation Manual

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Serving Industry World Wide



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Fifth Wheel Towing Unit Installation Check List

1. _____ Visually inspect king pin for secure latch.
2. _____ Secure frame clamps to truck frame.
3. _____ Hook king pin safety chains to frame and **hand** tighten ratchet binders. Do not use pipe extension on binders!
4. _____ Deflate the air ride suspension on the towed unit.
5. _____ Secure the steering wheel so the front wheels are straight.
6. _____ Chain forward tandem to truck frame or basket both tandems with longer tow chains.
7. _____ Hook Tow Chains to towed unit and wrecker sling.
8. _____ Install angle iron prior to lifting truck.
9. _____ Lift truck to desired height and install safety pin under boom then lower boom on to safety pin.
10. _____ Hook anti-swing chain into hook under boom.
11. _____ Hook up air brakes.
12. _____ Hang light bar on towed unit and plug cord in.

Please call with any installation questions or concerns.

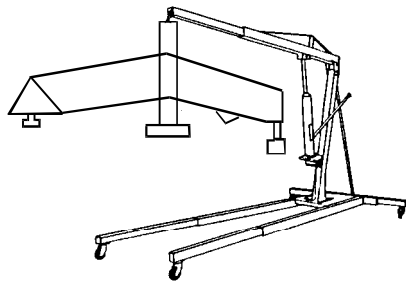


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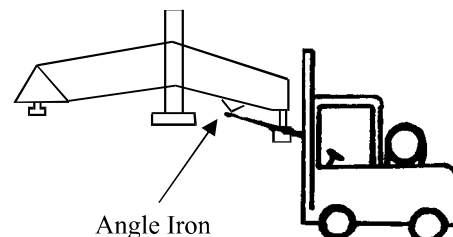
Fifth Wheel Towing Unit Installation on Tractor

Lift unit with forklift or overhead hoist and securely latch king pin into tractors fifth wheel plate.

Overhead Hoist Method



Forklift Method



1. Make sure the foot plate of the wrecker is sitting fully on horizontal flat frame of the truck. Do not sit base plate on fifth wheel protector ramps or part of a sliding fifth wheel assembly or a slanted truck frame.
2. Slide frame clamps out and tighten locking the rear of wrecker unit securely to the trucks frame.
3. Hook king pin safety chains onto truck frame and secure with ratchet binders.
NOTICE: Safety chain is a secondary securing device. Lightly hand tighten binders.
DO NOT use pipe extension on binders.
4. Remove battery cover on truck to access power for jump cables if applicable.

Your wrecker is now ready for towing service.

Please call with any installation questions or concerns.



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Hooking Up the Disabled Tractor

1. Deflate the air ride suspension on the vehicle to be towed if applicable.
2. Position the sling of the wrecker approximately 2 to 3 inches from the disabled vehicle in the lowered position. Make sure your vehicles are centered so the hooks on the sling are properly positioned .
3. **Towing Chains should be minimum 1/2" grade 70 or 3/8" grade 80.**
4. With 20 ft tow chains you can "basket" both tandems by hooking onto the frame in front of the forward tandem and running under both tandems to the wrecker sling. You will normally have enough chain left over to make a secondary connection back to the truck from the safety hooks on the boom considering your chains have hooks on both ends.
5. If 10 ft tow chains are used you must chain the forward tandem with a 3/8" or 5/16" common grade shop chain. To chain the forward tandem simply wrap the axle on one side of the frame, throw the chain across the top of the frame and wrap the other side then hook the chain into itself. No binder is required as this chain will tighten as soon as the truck is lifted. Tow chains are connected to the rear tandem then go around the frame and then into the hooks on the wrecker sling. Leftover chain is then draped into the boom safety hooks leaving enough slack for turning radius
6. Position the supplied angle iron under the truck frame on top of the tow chains before lifting. You may have to remove the taillights on some tractors to clear for the angle.
7. Lift truck to desired height and place boom support pin under boom. Lower boom on to support pin.
8. Hook the anti-swing chain into the hook under the boom.
9. A second set of safety chains should be used to connect the chassis of the towed vehicle to the chassis of the tow truck. These chains should not terminate at the fifth wheel wrecker.
10. Secure the steering wheel of the towed vehicle in a fixed position so the front tires are straight and true.
11. Install light bar (remote taillight assembly) and cord.
12. Install air brake safety assembly if applicable.
13. If towing from the front, adequate material should be placed between the towed vehicle and the wrecker sling to prevent the boom from damaging the towed vehicle when braking.
14. Fairings should be examined and secured if needed.



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Final Checks and Tips

In conclusion

Go over your check list on page 1 each time you tow. Visually inspect every aspect of your hook up before proceeding. Check the worksite for tools or other items which may be left behind or create a hazard. Push in both red and yellow air valve knobs to ensure proper braking action on the towed vehicle if applicable. Do a short test run driving forward a few yards then applying the brakes coming to a complete stop. Back up and repeat this step. Get out and inspect your rigging. Check lights, hook chains, angle iron, light cord, and secured steering wheel. Check hood latches, battery box covers and hook up chains. If you have attended to everything on the checklist, rest assured you have a safe and secure rig.

Safety First!

Do not attempt to pick up a tractor on the roadway! Road pickup is best left to the professional wrecker driver. If the tractor you are picking up is stranded on the roadside, it is imperative to hire a competent professional to tow it to a safer location. Truck stop parking lots, commercial truck lots, dealerships, or large rest areas with sufficient safe hookup areas are a few suggestions. **Do not attempt to jockey trucks around on the roadway putting you or others in jeopardy**

Driving Tips

Drive this rig as you would a loaded tractor trailer. Approach lights and congestion areas with caution and at a reduced speed. You will experience a slight “wash” when starting through the lower gears. This movement is normal and will dissipate at higher speeds. When going through narrow passages such as toll booths or construction zones, be aware that the tractor you are hauling is wider than a trailer due to the mirrors. Pay attention to this wider clearance to avoid damage. Drive as if you were pulling a 53 foot trailer. Make wide sweeping turns and watch the rear tires of the towed vehicle in your mirrors when turning making sure you maintain adequate clearance between the towed vehicle and yourself. Finally, always walk around the rig for a quick check when stopping for fuel, to eat, ect. Check the hubs on the towed unit for normal temperature. Check the lug nuts on the towed vehicle for tightness. Examine fairings for any problems. Check your light cord and air hoses for any pinch points or leaks and your light bar for proper placement.

Congratulations! You are now a safe and responsible wrecker driver we can all count on!



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