

TIPS FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING AN ATV

The dangers of loading and unloading an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) are often overlooked. ATVs are typically loaded on trailers or in the back of pickup trucks. Using a trailer to load and transport your ATV is the safest option, especially when the trailer is equipped with an attached ramp. Make sure the trailer or truck is durable enough to load and transport the size of ATV.

LOADING AN ATV

- 1** Wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Long sleeves and pants, helmet, gloves, goggles and boots.



- 2** Reduce the angle of the ramp, especially for taller trucks.

This can be accomplished by parking the truck with the rear wheels in a small ditch or by parking with the rear of the truck close to a small rise or earthen bank.

- 3** Secure portable ramps to the truck or trailer before loading.



Ensure the trailer is still attached to the vehicle when loading and unloading. This might seem like common sense, however a trailer not attached to a vehicle can lift, move and slam to the ground which poses a risk to not only the rider, but also those around or near the trailer.

- 4** Stand up and lean forward while the ATV climbs the ramp.



- 5** Maintain a low continuous speed for proper momentum while loading the ATV.

Too low of speed and lack of momentum stalls the ATV on the ramp.

Too much speed can cause uncontrolled handling of the ATV and may lead to an accident.

- 6** Tie down or strap the ATV and the portable ramps before moving the vehicle.



- 7** If not securing the ATV to a rigid surface, such as the bed of a pick-up truck, make sure heavy tie down straps are used to secure the front and back of the ATV. The suspension system of the ATV should be compressed at a minimum of several inches to ensure minimal movement during transportation. Frequent stops and checks is important when transporting ATVs, especially on trailers pulled over rough roads.

NEVER
attempt to load
your ATV without
first securing the
ramps to the truck
or trailer!

UNLOADING AN ATV

1 Wear your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Long sleeves and pants, helmet, gloves, goggles and boots.

2 Reduce the angle of the ramp if possible, especially for taller trucks.

This may be accomplished in the same manner as mentioned prior, in the section on Loading an ATV.

3 Secure portable ramps to the truck or trailer before unloading.

4 Use low speeds to unload your ATV.

5 Stand up and lean forward while the ATV backs down the ramp.



NEVER
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your ATV without
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ramps to the truck
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OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Solid ramps, either trailer ramps or portable ramps (bifold or trifold), provide more ramp space to maneuver an ATV while loading and unloading than individual tire ramps.



- 2 Never improvise a ramp with 2x4 or 2x6 boards.

- 3 Never load a trailer that is not secured to a vehicle.



- 4 Only allow children with appropriate skill level to load or unload age-appropriate ATVs.

ALTERNATIVE LOADING OPTION: A WINCH

Loading or unloading an ATV, especially into the back of a truck, can be intimidating. Instead of driving an ATV up the ramps, use a winch to pull the ATV up the ramp. The winch can also be used to lower the ATV down the ramp. To accomplish this there will need to be an anchor point mounted on the front of the trailer or truck bed (next to the cab). Put the ATV into neutral and operate the winch.

**BE CAREFUL:
ATV loading and
unloading can
be dangerous
when rushed or
improvised.**



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