

MICHIGAN DOT TRAILERING RULES SUMMARY

****RULES FOR COMMERCIAL HAULERS VS. PRIVATE ARE DIFFERENT****
If you are getting paid to haul, are a business or have a DOT license you are commercial. Also dual wheel pickups are legally commercial but generally will be ignored if towed trailer is obviously personal/recreational. Watch out when hauling for someone else.

NON COMMERCIAL

TIE DOWNS

INDIVIDUAL CARGO LESS THAN 10,000 LBS

Sum of *working load limit* of all chains and/or straps has to be at least 1/2 of weight of cargo secured. No rules on how many tie downs required. Tie downs have to be "reasonably" tight.

INDIVIDUAL CARGO MORE THAN 10,000 LBS

Above rules plus 4 corners have to be secured.

Implements, backhoes, loaders have to be secured individually even if they are attached to tractor.

CHAIN WORKING LOAD LIMIT IN POUNDS (normally stamped on chain links)

CHAIN SIZE (inches)	GRADE 30	GRADE 43	GRADE 70	GRADE 80	GRADE 100
1/4	1300	2600	3150	3500	4300
5/16	1900	6900	4700	4500	5700
3/8	2650	5400	6600	7100	8800
7/16	3700	7200	8750	XXX	XXX
1/2	4500	9200	11300	12000	15000
5/8	6900	13000	15800	18100	22000

STRAP WORKING LOAD LIMITS AS RATED BY MANUFACTURER

TRAILERS

Dot assumes tie down locations as manufactured are OK.

Trailers manufactured after 1974 with gross weight over 3000 lbs. must have brakes on all axles.

Must have safety chains with rating that exceeds gross trailer weight and functional breakaway brakes.

Breakaway brake cable must be shorter than safety chains.

Open trailers over 3,000 pounds must have one rear stop light, an amber reflector near the front of each side of the trailer, a red reflector near the back of each side. Enclosed trailers must also have clearance lights.

Maximum width 8ft. 6 in. (likely won't have issue if tie downs slightly exceed width.

Square (not ribbon) red flag (red light at night) required if cargo projects over 4 ft. from rear of trailer.

Any trailer over 53 ft total length (hitch to rear of projected load) requires permit.

Normal passenger car speed limits apply unless you are commercial