

Hydro-Excavation & Vacuum Truck Safety Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Inspection checklist

Mobile Equipment & Vacuum Unit Inspection

☐	Inspect all tires for proper inflation, cuts, bulges, and adequate tread depth (minimum 4/32 inch).	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Air brake system reaches 120 psi within 2 minutes at 1200 RPM; low-pressure buzzer sounds correctly @ 60 psi. Inspect air lines for leaks.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify all lights (headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, hazard lights) are functioning correctly. Check audible backup alarm.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect vacuum unit relief valves for proper operation and ensure they are free from obstructions. Test functionality daily.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify static grounding cables are securely connected to the vacuum unit and the grounding rod. Check for corrosion or damage.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect vacuum hose and water wand hose for cuts, abrasions, kinks, and proper connections. Ensure hose clamps are secure.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Check engine oil, coolant, hydraulic fluid, and other fluid levels. Replenish as needed.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify the horn is functioning properly.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Ensure windshield wipers are in good condition and functioning properly.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect all seatbelts for proper function and condition.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm fire extinguisher is fully charged, inspected within the last year, and readily accessible.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Site Conditions & Utility Locating

☐	Verify all underground utilities have been located and clearly marked per 811 or local regulations. Confirm markings match site plans.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm a valid excavation permit has been obtained, if required by local regulations.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess soil type and stability to determine appropriate excavation methods and shoring requirements, if necessary.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure adequate traffic control measures are in place to protect workers and the public. Verify signage and barricades are properly positioned.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess weather conditions (wind, rain, temperature) and adjust work practices accordingly. Suspend operations during severe weather.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Evaluate the excavation area for potential confined space hazards. Implement confined space entry procedures if necessary.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect the stability of excavation slopes. Ensure proper sloping or shoring is in place to prevent cave-ins.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure safe access and egress to the excavation area. Provide ladders, ramps, or other means of access as needed.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess the proximity of nearby structures and utilities. Take precautions to prevent damage during excavation.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Maintain a clean and organized work area. Remove debris and tripping hazards.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

☐	Verify hard hat is ANSI Z89.1 compliant, undamaged, and properly fitted.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
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☐	Ensure safety glasses or face shield are ANSI Z87.1 compliant and provide adequate eye protection.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs) is available and used when noise levels exceed 85 dBA.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify high-visibility clothing (vest or jacket) is ANSI 107 compliant and worn at all times.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure appropriate gloves are worn to protect hands from cuts, abrasions, and chemical exposure.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify steel-toe boots are worn to protect feet from impact and compression hazards.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess the need for respiratory protection based on air quality. Provide and ensure proper use of respirators if required.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure waterproof clothing is available and worn during wet conditions to prevent hypothermia.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify sunscreen and appropriate clothing are available for sun protection.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Hydro-Excavation Procedures

☐	Verify water pressure is within safe operating limits for the task and equipment. Do not exceed manufacturer's recommendations.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure proper water wand operating techniques are used to minimize risk of injury and damage to utilities. Maintain a safe distance from utilities.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Position vacuum hose to prevent back-pressure and ensure efficient material removal. Avoid sharp bends or kinks in the hose.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Establish clear communication signals between the water wand operator and the vacuum truck operator.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure a spotter is present to monitor the excavation area and provide warnings of potential hazards.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Adhere to safe digging practices, including slow and controlled excavation, and probing to verify utility locations.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Follow proper backfill procedures to ensure adequate compaction and prevent settlement.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Dispose of excavated material in accordance with environmental regulations and company policies.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify emergency shutdown procedures are understood and readily accessible.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Identify and respect 'no spray' zones near sensitive equipment or areas.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Documentation & Training

☐	Verify vacuum truck operators are properly trained and certified to operate the equipment.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure utility locators have completed required training and are qualified to locate underground utilities.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm a site-specific safety plan has been developed and communicated to all workers.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are readily available for all chemicals used on site.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure an emergency contact list is readily available and includes contact information for local emergency services, utility companies, and company personnel.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Review daily inspection logs for the vacuum truck and hydro-excavation equipment. Ensure any deficiencies have been addressed.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) or Task Hazard Analysis (THA) has been completed for the hydro-excavation task.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify regular toolbox talks are conducted to discuss safety topics and reinforce safe work practices.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If applicable, confirm a confined space entry permit is completed and posted.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____