

U-CART FAQ

Q. How much can I get at a time?

A. As a general rule of thumb a $\frac{3}{4}$ ton full size pickup with a class 3 hitch can pull up to two yards. A $\frac{1}{2}$ ton full size pickup with a class 3 hitch can pull up to 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ yards. Smaller vehicles and bumper hitches vary greatly in how much you can tow but fall generally between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 yard. We will help you to determine how much you can safely tow but you are ultimately responsible for knowing what your vehicle is capable of safely towing.

Q. How long do I have to pour the concrete?

A. The temperature of the concrete plays a major role in the time it takes for concrete to set. A concrete pad poured on a 75° day will take roughly 2 hours to set. This means you have about 2 hours from the time the concrete is mixed to have it placed and floated before it sets. Cold weather adversely affects the set time. A 20° drop in the temperature of the wet concrete will double the set time. Concrete will not set at 40° or below. Concrete generates its own heat while curing so a large mass of fresh concrete, such as when it is in the trailer, will increase the internal temperature and reduce the set time.

Q. Can I pour in winter or cold weather?

A. Yes. The key is that the internal temperature of the concrete must be kept above 40° and the surface of the fresh concrete cannot be allowed to frost over. Additives that help generate internal heat, insulating blankets, plastic sheeting and/or heaters can all be used to help achieve this.

Q. How much help should I have?

A. We recommend you have at least 1.25 extra people for each yard of concrete you plan to pour. Take the number of yards you will be pouring and multiply it by 1.25 to calculate the extra people you will need. I.e. 3 yards times 1.25 = 3.75 rounded to 4. So 4 people (in addition to you) are recommended.

Q. Where do I clean the trailer?

A. You will need to have a place set aside to wash the trailer out. Do not wash the trailer out in the gutter or down a storm drain. A wheelbarrow or a bare piece of ground will work. Once the water has evaporated or drained away you can scoop up the dried residue and dispose of it with your garbage. If you do not have anywhere to wash the trailer, you can return the dirty trailer within your time limit to us and we will clean it for you for \$50. Overnight trailers cannot be returned dirty.

Q. Do I have to reserve a trailer?

A. No. Power trailers can only be reserved for when we open. After opening, all trailers are basically on a first-come first-serve basis. You can, however, call just prior to coming in to verify we have a trailer available. We can hold a trailer for you 15 - 20 minutes to give you time to arrive.

Q. I don't have any tools, where do I get them?

A. We have all the basic tools that you will need for your U-Cart project for rent at very reasonable prices. Both hand tools and long handle tools are available.

Q. How far away can I go?

A. Basic non-powered trailers have a useful range of about 10 miles; you will have noticeable settling of the concrete at longer distances. Powered trailers prevent any settling, so they are only limited by time. You can haul the concrete as far as you can drive, empty, wash and return the trailer in the 3 hour time limit. Take into consideration the recommended towing speed of 35 mph when calculating how far you can go.

Q. Are the trailers hard to operate?

A. No. Basic trailers have a simple hydraulic hand pump. Powered trailers have an easy two control system, one to mix or dispense the concrete and the other to raise and lower the mixer.

Q. What strength concrete do I need?

A. Sheds, dog runs, footings and patios use a 5 bag mix (3000 psi) while driveways, foundations, retaining walls and other load-bearing projects use a 6 bag mix (4000 psi). Note that if your shed or patio will have vehicles or other heavy objects like hot tubs on them you will need to upgrade to a 6 bag mix.

Q. How do I calculate the amount I need?

A. If you are pouring a square or rectangle measure your length, width, and depth in inches, multiply them together and divide the result by 46656. This is the yardage you will need. Accuracy is very important when calculating volume. A 10' square pad at 4" deep will use 1-1/4 yards but just a $\frac{1}{4}$ " deeper will increase the total needed to 1-1/3 yards.

Q. What if I need more than I can pick up at one time?

A. Have one person designated as the driver. Pick up your first load and haul it to your pour site. As quickly as possible empty the trailer into your forms. While the concrete is being spread out, have the driver give the trailer a quick rinse (don't leave water in the trailer) and head back for the next load. When the next load arrives at your site simply continue where the last load left off.

Q. Do you deliver?

A. No. We do not have a delivery service.

Q. What if I only have time after work?

A. Our basic non-powered trailers can be taken overnight. Just pick up your load within 3 hours before the close of business. Call for current plant and office closing times. The trailer will be due back during the first hour of business on the next business day. Be sure to thoroughly clean the trailer. Trailers returned dirty in the morning will cost you the \$50 cleaning deposit plus all costs for any equipment rental and time needed to clean the trailer. Remember that you will be fully responsible for the trailer for the entire time you have it; this includes damage, vandalism and theft.