

Unloading from the Trailer (complete in reverse for reloading)

1. Ensure the trailer is on stable flat ground and securely connected to the vehicle's tow bar before starting any unloading procedures.
2. Unpin each metal ramp stabiliser bar and lay it flat against the trailer, then lower the ramps. This prevents damage and bending to the ramp stabiliser bars.
3. Remove tie-down straps from over the buckets and tie-downs at the rear of the machine before starting the machine.
4. Start the engine and let it idle for a moment to warm up.
5. Put seatbelt on.
6. Move the machine forward to release the blade tie-downs.
7. Raise the red safety bar while exiting the cab to unhook the blade from the tie-downs.
8. Check that the boom and arm are positioned centrally, with the bucket slightly curled.
9. Slowly reverse the excavator down the ramps, keeping the bucket close to the ground for balance.
10. Once off the trailer, expand the tracks for better stability if needed.

Expanding the Tracks for Stability

The tracks can be retracted to 990mm for accessing tight spaces (e.g, through side gates). Once at your destination, follow these steps to extend the tracks for stability:

1. Ensure the excavator is on flat, stable ground.
2. Lift the machine off the ground by using the dozer blade at the front and the boom with the bucket at the rear:
 1. Lower the dozer blade until it lifts the front of the machine slightly off the ground.
 2. Use the boom and bucket to lift the rear of the excavator slightly.
3. Locate the track expander control lever (on the lower right side panel below the seat). This lever switches power from the dozer blade to the track expander.
4. Extend the tracks fully by using the dozer blade control lever.
5. Once the tracks are extended, lower the machine back onto the ground gently.
6. To retract the tracks, reverse the process before reloading the machine onto the trailer for transport.

Returning the Machine

Before returning the machine, please ensure the following:

1. The excavator is in the same condition as when it was hired, with no excessive dirt, damage, or missing parts.
2. The fuel tank is refilled with diesel to avoid refuelling charges.
3. The tracks are retracted before reloading onto the trailer.
4. Any issues or damages are reported immediately.

Final Safety & Operation Reminders

1. Always operate with smooth, controlled movements to avoid tipping.
2. Be mindful of underground utilities and overhead obstacles.
3. When digging on a slope, position the heaviest end of the machine uphill.
4. At the end of use, park on level ground, lower the boom and blade, engage the safety lock, and switch off the engine.
5. Always wear a seatbelt when operating the excavator.
6. Wear appropriate PPE (hard hat, high-vis, steel-toe boots, gloves, and hearing protection if needed).
7. Be aware of surroundings, including overhead obstacles and underground services.
8. Never exceed the safe working load of the machine.
9. Expand tracks for stability.

Please read the operators manual for the full guide on operating the Kubota U17.

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