Maximum towing capabilities are for properly equipped vehicles with required equipment and a 150-lb. driver and passenger and vary based on cargo, vehicle configuration, accessories, option content and number of passengers. For additional information, see your Ford Dealer.
TOWING BASICS

Towing a trailer is demanding on your vehicle, your trailer and your personal driving skills. Follow some basic rules that will help you tow safely and have a lot more fun.

For the latest RV & Trailer Towing information, check out www.fleet.ford.com/towing-guides or go to esourcebook.dealerconnection.com.

Cargo And Weight Distribution
For optimum handling and braking, the load must be properly distributed
Keep center of gravity low for best handling
Approximately 60% of the allowable cargo weight should be in the front half of the trailer and 40% in the rear (within limits of tongue load or king pin weight)
Load should be balanced from side-to-side to optimize handling and tire wear
Load must be firmly secured to prevent shifting during cornering or braking, which could result in a sudden loss of control

Before Starting
Before setting out on a trip, practice turning, stopping and backing up your trailer in an area away from heavy traffic
Know clearance required for trailer roof
Check equipment (make a checklist)

Backing Up
Back up slowly, with someone spotting near the rear of the trailer to guide you
Place one hand at bottom of steering wheel and move it in the direction you want the trailer to go
Make small steering inputs – slight movement of steering wheel results in much greater movement in rear of trailer

Braking
Allow considerably more distance for stopping with trailer attached
Remember, the braking system of the tow vehicle is rated for operation at the GVWR, not GCWR
If your tow vehicle is an F-150®, F-Series Super Duty®, Transit® or Expedition® and your trailer has electric brakes, the optional Integrated Trailer Brake Controller (TBC) assists in smooth and effective trailer braking by powering the trailer’s electric or electric-over-hydraulic brakes with proportional output based on the towing vehicle’s brake pressure
If you are experiencing trailer sway and your vehicle is equipped with electric brakes and a brake controller, activate the trailer brakes with the brake controller by hand. Do not apply the tow vehicle brakes as this can result in increased sway

Turning
When turning, be sure to swing wide enough to allow trailer to avoid curbs and other obstructions.

Towing On Hills
Downshift the transmission to assist braking on steep downgrades and to increase power (reduce lugging) when climbing hills
With TorqShift® transmission, select tow/haul mode to automatically eliminate unwanted gear search when going uphill and help control vehicle speed when going downhill

Parking With A Trailer
Whenever possible, vehicles with trailers should not be parked on a grade. However, if it is necessary, place wheel chocks under the trailer’s wheels, following the instructions below.
Apply the foot service brakes and hold
Have another person place the wheel chocks under the trailer wheels on the downgrade side
Once the chocks are in place, release brake pedal, making sure the chocks will hold the vehicle and trailer
Apply the parking brake
Shift automatic transmission into park, or manual transmission into reverse
With 4-wheel drive, make sure the transfer case is not in neutral (if applicable)

Starting Out Parked On A Grade
Apply the foot service brake and hold
Start the engine with transmission in park (automatic) or neutral (manual)
Shift the transmission into gear and release the parking brake
Release the brake pedal and move the vehicle uphill to free the chocks
Apply the brake pedal while another person retrieves the chocks

Acceleration And Passing
The added weight of the trailer can dramatically decrease the acceleration of the towing vehicle – exercise caution.
When passing a slower vehicle, be sure to allow extra distance. Remember, the added length of the trailer must clear the other vehicle before you can pull back in
Signal and make your pass on level terrain with plenty of clearance
If necessary, downshift for improved acceleration

Driving With An Automatic Overdrive Transmission
With certain automatic overdrive transmissions, towing – especially in hilly areas – may cause excessive shifting between overdrive and the next lower gear.
To eliminate this condition and achieve steadier performance, overdrive can be locked out (see vehicle Owner’s Manual)
If excessive shifting does not occur, use overdrive to help enhance performance
Overdrive may also be locked out to obtain engine braking on downgrades
When available, select tow/haul mode to automatically eliminate unwanted gear search and help control vehicle speed when going downhill

Driving With Cruise Control
Turn off the cruise control with heavy loads or in hilly terrain. The cruise control may turn off automatically when you are towing on long, steep grades. Use caution while driving on wet roads and avoid using cruise control in rainy or winter weather conditions.

Tire Pressure
Underinflated tires get hot and may fail, leading to possible loss of vehicle control
Overinflated tires may wear unevenly and compromise traction and stopping capability
Tires should be checked often for conformance to recommended cold inflation pressures

Spare Tire Use
A conventional, identical full-size spare tire is required for trailer towing (mini, compact and dissimilar full-size spare tires should not be used; always replace the spare tire with a new road tire as soon as possible).

On The Road
After about 50 miles, stop in a protected location and double-check:
Trailer hitch attachment
Lights and electrical connections
Trailer wheel lug nuts for tightness
Engine oil – check regularly throughout your trip

High Altitude Operation
Your vehicle may have reduced performance when operating at high altitudes and when heavily loaded or towing a trailer. While driving at elevation, in order to match driving performance as perceived at sea level, reduce GVWs and GCWs by 2% per 1,000 ft. elevation

Powertrain/Frontal Area Considerations
The charts in this Guide show the minimum powertrain needed to achieve an acceptable towing performance for the listed GCW of tow vehicle and trailer
Under certain conditions, however, (e.g., when the trailer has a large frontal area that adds substantial air drag or when trailer is in hilly or mountainous terrain) it is wise to choose a vehicle with a higher rating
Towing performance is maximized with a low-drag, rounded front design trailer

Selecting A Trim Series
Your specific vehicle’s tow capability could be reduced based on weight of selected trim series and option content.

Note: For additional trailering information pertaining to your vehicle, refer to the vehicle Owner’s Manual

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