Required Equipment
Includes items that must be installed.* Your New Vehicle Limited Warranty (see your dealer for a copy) may be voided if you tow without them.

For trailers over 2,000 pounds – Class III Trailer Tow Package

*Check with your dealer for additional requirements, restrictions and limited warranty details.

2019 Ford Flex

Model Flex (Option Code) (53G)

7-Wire Harness & 4-/7-Pin Connector

Hitch Receiver

Trailer Sway Control

Engine Oil Cooler

(1) Not included with EcoBoost engine.

Notes:
• Content may vary depending on model, trim and/or powertrain. See your dealer for specific content information.

Factory-Installed Trailer Hitch Receiver Options
Included with Class III Trailer Tow Package – Option Code 53G

See chart at right for the weight-carrying and weight-distributing capacities of this hitch receiver. (This capacity also is shown on a label affixed to each receiver.)

Frontal Area Considerations

Frontal Area is the total area in square feet that a moving vehicle and trailer exposes to air resistance. The chart above shows the limitations that must be considered in selecting a vehicle/trailer combination. Exceeding these limitations may significantly reduce the performance of your towing vehicle.

Hitch Receiver Weight Capacity

Refer to the Trailer Towing Selector chart for Maximum Loaded Trailer Weights for this vehicle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight-Carrying Max. Trailer Capacity (lbs.) (1)</th>
<th>Max. Tongue Load (lbs.)</th>
<th>Weight-Distributing Max. Trailer Capacity (lbs.) (1)</th>
<th>Max. Tongue Load (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flex</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Hitch receivers do not include a hitch ball or ball mounting. You are responsible for obtaining the proper hitch ball, ball mounting, weight-distributing equipment (i.e., equalizing arms and snap-up brackets, sway control system) and other appropriate equipment to tow both the trailer and its cargo load.
KNOW BEFORE YOU TOW

BEFORE YOU BUY
If you are selecting a vehicle that will be used for towing, you should determine the approximate weight of the trailer you intend to tow, including the weight of any additional cargo and fluids that you will be carrying in the trailer. Also, be sure the vehicle has the proper optional equipment. Keep in mind that performance can be severely affected in hilly terrain when the minimum acceptable powertrain combination is selected. Consider purchasing a vehicle with a more powerful engine.

Brakes
Many states require a separate braking system on trailers with a loaded weight of more than 1,500 pounds. For your safety, Ford Motor Company recommends that a separate functional brake system be used on any towed vehicle, including those dolly-towed or towbar-towed. There are several basic types of brake systems designed to activate trailer brakes:

**Electronically Controlled Brakes** usually provide automatic and manual control of trailer brakes. They require that the tow vehicle be equipped with a controlling device and additional wiring for electrical power. These brakes typically have a control box installed within reach of the driver and can be applied manually or automatically.

**Electric-Over-Hydraulic (EOH) Trailer Brakes** are operated by an electrically powered pump that pressurizes a hydraulic fluid reservoir built into the trailer’s brake system. Many of the available EOH trailer brake models are compatible with the Ford factory installed, dash-integrated Trailer Brake Controller (TBC).

**Surge Brakes** are independent hydraulic brakes activated by a master cylinder at the junction of the hitch and trailer tongue. They are not controlled by the hydraulic fluid in the tow vehicle’s brake system and the tow vehicle’s hydraulic system should never be connected directly to the trailer’s hydraulic system.

Be sure your trailer brakes conform to all applicable state regulations. See Safe Towing for All Vehicles on the last page for additional braking information.

AFTER YOU BUY
Before heading out on a trip, check your vehicle’s Owner’s Manual for break-in and severe-duty maintenance schedules (do not tow a trailer until your vehicle has been driven at least 1,000 miles). Be sure to have your fully-loaded vehicle (including passengers) and trailer weighed so as not to exceed critical weight limits. If any of these limits are exceeded, cargo should be removed from the vehicle and/or trailer until all weights are within the specified limits.

**Trailer Lamps**
Make sure the trailer is equipped with lights that conform to all applicable government regulations. The trailer lighting system should not be connected directly to the lighting system of the vehicle. See a local recreational vehicle dealer or rental trailer agency for correct wiring and relays for the trailer and heavy-duty flashers.

**Safety Chains**
- Always use safety chains when towing. Safety chains are used to retain connection between the towing and towed vehicle in the event of separation of the trailer coupling or ball.
- Cross chains under the trailer tongue to prevent the tongue from contacting the ground if a separation occurs. Allow only enough slack to permit full turning – be sure they do not drag on the pavement.
- When using a frame-mounted trailer hitch, attach the safety chains to the frame-mounted hitch using the recommendations supplied by the hitch manufacturer.
- See your vehicle’s Owner’s Manual for safety chain attachment information.
- For rental trailers, follow rental agency instructions for hookup of safety chains.

**Trailer Wiring Harness**
- Some vehicles equipped with a factory-installed Trailer Tow Package include a trailer wiring harness and a wiring kit.
- This kit includes one or more jumper harnesses (to connect to your trailer wiring connector) and installation instructions.
Weight Distribution
For optimum handling and braking, the load must be properly distributed
Keep the 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

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

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
Make 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 override 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 optimize fuel economy
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 trip

High Altitude Operation
Gasoline engines lose power by 3-4% per 1,000 ft. elevation. To maintain performance, reduce GVWs and GCWs by 2% per 1,000 ft. elevation starting at the 1,000 ft. elevation point.

Powertrain/Frontal Area Considerations
The charts in this Guide show the minimum engine size needed to move the 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 towing in hilly or mountainous terrain) it is wise to choose a larger engine
Selecting a trailer with a low-drag, rounded front design will help optimize performance and fuel economy

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