**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 3,000 pounds – Class III Trailer Tow Package (52T)

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

**Frontal Area Considerations**

The chart above shows the maximum trailer frontal area that must be considered for 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.

- **Explorer**
  - Weight-Carrying Max. Trailer Capacity (lbs.)*: 5,600
  - Max. Tongue Load (lbs.): 560

*Hitch receivers do not include a hitch ball or ball mounting. You are responsible for obtaining the proper hitch ball, ball mounting, and other appropriate equipment to tow both the trailer and its cargo load.

**Road Axle Ratio Codes**

If you do not know the axle ratio of your vehicle, check its Truck Safety Compliance Certification Label (located on the left front door lock facing or the door latch post pillar). Below the bar code, you will see the word AXLE and a two-digit code. Use this chart to find the axle ratio that corresponds to that code:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engine</th>
<th>Axle Ratio</th>
<th>Rear Axle Ratio</th>
<th>Non-Limited Slip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3L EcoBoost® 1/4</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>5.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0L EcoBoost V6</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3L Ti-VCT V6</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5L HEV V6</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Explorer does not offer factory-installed towing equipment for this application; only available as dealer accessory.

**Notes:**
- Explorer calculated with SAE J2807® method.
- Cargo and load capacity limited by weight and weight distribution.

**Factory-Installed Trailer Hitch Receiver Options**

Included with Class III Trailer Tow Package – Option Code 52T

See chart at right for the weight-carrying capacity of this hitch receiver. (This capacity also is shown on a label affixed to each receiver.)
Cargo and Weight Distribution
For optimum handling and braking, the load must be properly distributed.
Keep center of gravity low for best handling.
Approximately 90% 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 must 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 towing 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.

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.

Packing 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 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 trailering 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.