

Selecting a Hitch

Verify Load Capacity

As a general rule bigger is better in the towing world. If you are going to error with the load capacity (defined by Classes) it is much better to go bigger than smaller. There are several ways to figure out how much capacity you need in your towing application. Because the sheer number of vehicles, it is hard to suggest for specific vehicles.

Educate yourself on the items below before making a decision:

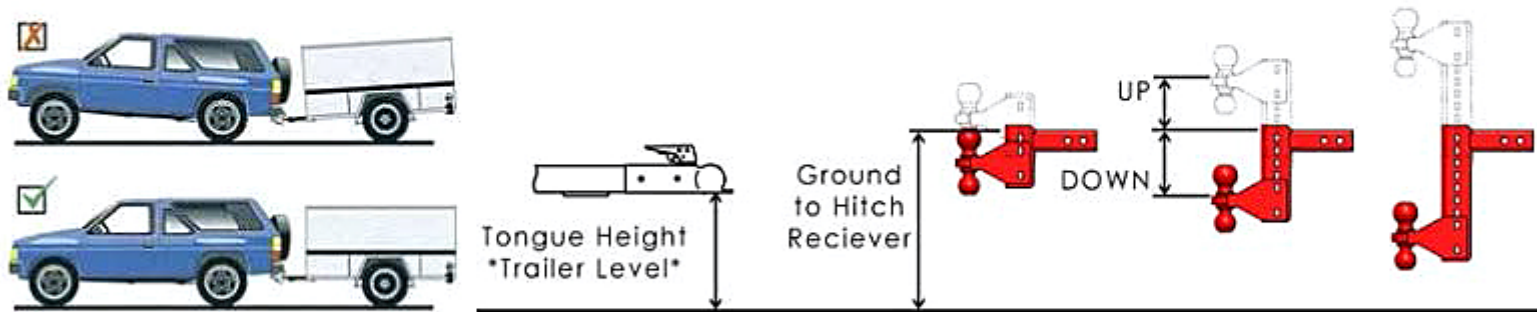
- Dig out your vehicles owner's manual to find the maximum towing and tongue weight limitations
- Check the hitch receiver bolted to your vehicle, it should have a load capacity on it
- What is the maximum weight you intend to tow? (this should include trailer fully loaded with gear)

REMEMBER

Always choose a hitch that is strong enough to handle the maximum anticipated total weight of the trailer but does not exceed the towing capacity of your vehicle. Buying a bigger hitch does not necessarily mean you can tow larger trailers. Never exceed the limitations of your vehicle!

Choose the Size of Drop/Rise

There is a lot of talk out there about the "perfect" ball height for a trailer. The reality is that it is specific to truck/trailer/load and many times you just need to adjust on the fly. The ultimate goal is to simply keep your trailer as level as possible when fully loaded. Below is a guide that will help you decide the range of adjustment that will suite you best.



Up	5" to 8-1/2"			
	1-1/2" to 5"			
	0" to 1-1/2"			
Direction	Receiver Height - Tongue Height	XD 3" Adjustable Platform	XD 6" Adjustable Platform	XD 10" Adjustable Platform
Down	0" to 3"			
	3" to 6"			
	6" to 10"			

Hitch Classes

Trailer hitches (consisting of receivers and ball mounts) are typically given a "class" rating to define their weight capacity. Classes range from class I to class V. All hitches will have a specified towing capacity and hitches within the same class will have the same weight capacities.

	Class I Trailer GVWR* 2,000 lbs (910 kg) Max Tongue Weight 200 lbs (91 kg)	Class II Trailer GVWR* 3,500 lbs (1590 kg) Max Tongue Weight 350 lbs (159 kg)	Class III Trailer GVWR* 5,000 lbs (2270 kg) Max Tongue Weight 500 lbs (227 kg)	Class IV Trailer GVWR* 10,000 lbs (4540 kg) Max Tongue Weight 1,200 lbs (545 kg)	Class V Trailer GVWR* 12,000 lbs (4540 kg) Max Tongue Weight 1,200 lbs (545 kg)
Compact Cars	WC**	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Mid-Sized Cars	WC**	WC**	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	Not Recommended
Full-Sized Cars / Mini-Trucks, Mini-Vans	WC**	WC**	WC** WD**	WC** WD**	Not Recommended
Full-Sized Trucks, Vans, SUVs	WC**	WC**	WC** WD**	WC** WD**	WC** WD**

* Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) refers to the maximum weight capacity of the trailer AND all cargo.

**Weight Carrying (WC) hitches are what most think of when towing, they are designed with a simple ball and socket attachment.

***Weight Distributing (WD) hitches utilize additional stabilizer bars that help distribute the tongue weight of the trailer to the the front axle of the vehicle to help with larger loads.

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