

What You Need to Know When Towing A Camper
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It's fun traveling with your home as you explore the different regions of the country. However, before you leave home on your first trip, there are many things you'll need to take into consideration before you can safely tow your camper to your destination.

Make sure the tow vehicle is the proper size and has the tow capacity for your camper. This information can be found in your owner's manual or contact your dealer with your vehicle identification number (VIN #) for the maximum tow rating on your vehicle.

The hitch equipment to safely connect your tow vehicle to your trailer is essential. You will need a brake control to control the electric brakes on your camper. The brake control sends electric impulses through the trailer wiring to apply the electric brakes on your camper. The brake control is adjustable to vary how much braking is applied by your camper so that your tow vehicle and camper stop safely by applying the brakes equally at the same time.

An adjustable hitch head that can be raised or lowered to match the level height of your camper is also needed.

Weight distribution is very important in maintaining the proper center of gravity in an RV. This is accomplished by using load equalizer bars. These bars are adjustable so that the weight of you camper is equal from front to back. If too much load is behind the trailer axle, the camper will have a tendency for the rear end to sway when being towed.

One of the most important pieces of tow equipment is the sway control. There are different types of sway controls available but their job is the same. Sway controls stop your camper from swaying side to side out of control if a semi-truck passes you causing a vacuum or you find yourself off the roadway and jerk the wheel back

onto the roadway. Out of control swaying is a very dangerous situation and has caused many campers to be found on the shoulder of the road on its side or down an embankment on its roof.

RVs are large and have many blind spots. Mirrors properly installed on your tow vehicle that are wide enough to allow you to see completely down the side of your camper can help prevent serious accidents. These mirrors allow you to see that the road is clear to pull out to pass or return to the lane after passing.

The last safe towing feature you should have is the break away switch on your camper. This switch has a removable pin with a steel cable attached. This cable must be connected to the tow vehicle at a solid point, usually on the hitch or hitch head. If the camper becomes disconnected from the tow vehicle for any reason, the pin is pulled from the switch by the cable and the electric brakes are applied stopping the camper.

In order to keep your friends and family safe on your next trip, remember:

- If your tow vehicle is not large enough to safely tow your camper – Don't Do It!
- If you don't have an electric brake control – Don't Do It!
- If the proper hitch equipment, load equalizer bars and sway control are not installed – Don't Do It!
- If you can't see all the way down the sides of your camper in the mirrors – Don't Do It!
- The lives you save may be yours and mine.



Delaware Camping Center is located on 20983 DuPont Blvd., Georgetown, DE. Find them on the web at: delawarecampingctr.com.

Buckle Up, Drive Safe, Camp Safe, Be Safe