

Boasting about towing a heavy load is common in this day and age. It's the focus of nearly every truck commercial. But the answer to how much you can safely tow isn't always easy to find and there are many variables. Nonetheless, weight ratings are important to understand and follow.

Truck manufacturers give their trucks specific ratings after extensive testing. Tow ratings are based on the capacity of a truck's engine, transmission, and brakes to safely handle the weight of a loaded trailer. Truck manufacturers calculate how much a truck can safely accelerate and stop before assigning a tow rating. For Gross Weight Ratings, the truck's tires, frame, and suspension must be able to bear the load. It's important to never exceed the ratings assigned by the truck, trailer, or hitch manufacturers for the specific equipment you are using.



Fifth-wheel hitches should be tested for strength and durability and rated according to SAE J-2638.

FINDING MANUFACTURER WEIGHT LIMITS

Locate your **Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)**.

This is the maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle. You can find this, most likely, on the sticker inside your driver's side door.

You should also locate your **Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR)** from your truck manufacturer. This is the maximum allowable weight of the tow vehicle and the loaded trailer including all cargo and passengers. Find this in your owner's manual or by calling your truck dealer.

And finally, locate your **Max Tow Rating**. It is sometimes located in the truck owner's manual or look for it at trailerlife.com/trailer-towing-guides.

B&W recommends that your **Vertical Towing Weight Rating (VTWR)** for your hitch be no more than 25% of your truck's Max Tow Rating. Make this calculation: $\text{Max Tow Rating} \times .25 = \text{VTWR}$

<input type="text"/>
GVWR
<input type="text"/>
GCWR
<input type="text"/>
Max Tow Rating
<input type="text"/>
VTWR

Once you have located your truck manufacturer's weight ratings, transfer them into the corresponding boxes on the back side of this page.

FINDING YOUR ACTUAL WEIGHTS

Take your loaded truck and loaded trailer to a scale at a truck stop, quarry, or material supply center. For a small fee you can weigh your tow vehicle and trailer on their scale.



MUST BE MORE THAN

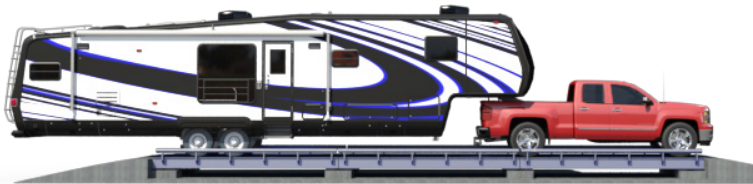
GVWR *

your **GVW**

1. Find your **GVW** (Gross Vehicle Weight)

Weigh just your truck with a full tank of gas, all your passengers and items in the cab and truck bed with your trailer loaded and attached, but not on the scale.

Do Not Exceed Your Truck Manufacturer's **GVWR**



MUST BE MORE THAN

GCWR *

your **GCW**

2. Find your **GCW** (Gross Combined Weight)

Weigh your fully loaded truck and trailer including all cargo, a full tank of gas and passengers.

Do Not Exceed Your Truck Manufacturer's **GCWR**

* Transfer Manufacturer's Ratings from previous page.



- =

your **GCW**

your **Truck Weight**

your **Towing Weight**

3. Find your **Towing Weight**

Weigh your loaded truck without the trailer attached. This is your truck weight.

Subtract your **Truck Weight** from your **GCW**.

This is your towing weight.



MUST BE MORE THAN

MAX TOW RATING *

your **Towing Weight**

- =

your **GVW**

your **Truck Weight**

your **VTW**

4. Find your **VTW** (Vertical Tow Weight) also known as Tongue Weight.

Subtract your **Truck Weight** from your **GVW**.



MUST BE MORE THAN

VTWR *

your **VTW**

IMPORTANT!

Even though you may be under your vehicle's Max Towing Rating, when your Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) goes up, (more passengers, more cargo) your ability to tow the Max Towing Rating may not be possible, because:

THE GROSS COMBINED WEIGHT RATING (GCWR) MUST NOT BE EXCEEDED.