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TRAILER TOWING SUPPLEMENT

2026

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Trailer Towing

General Towing Information

⚠ Warning

You can lose control when towing a trailer if the correct equipment is not used or the vehicle is not driven properly. For example, if the trailer is too heavy or the trailer brakes are inadequate for the load, the vehicle may not stop as expected. You and others could be seriously injured. The vehicle may also be damaged, and the repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty. Pull a trailer only if all the steps in the Trailer Towing Supplement have been followed. Ask your dealer for advice and information about towing a trailer with the vehicle.

Only use unleaded gasoline with an octane rating of 89 or higher. Using lower octane gas while towing may damage the engine and void the warranty. See Recommended Fuel in the Owner's Manual.

Driving Characteristics and Towing Tips

Driving with a Trailer

⚠ Warning

To prevent serious injury or death from carbon monoxide (CO), when towing a trailer:

- Do not drive with the liftgate, trunk/hatch, or rear-most window open.
- Fully open the air outlets on or under the instrument panel.
- Adjust the climate control system to a setting that brings in only outside air. See "Climate Control Systems" in the Index.

For more information about carbon monoxide, see your owner's manual.

Trailering is different than just driving the vehicle by itself. Trailering affects vehicle handling, acceleration, braking, and durability. Successful and safe trailering requires proper use of the correct equipment.

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The following information has many time-tested, important trailering tips and safety rules. Many of these are important for your safety and that of your passengers. Read this section carefully before towing a trailer.

When towing a trailer:

- Follow all state and local laws that apply to trailer towing. These requirements vary from state to state.
- Install extended side view mirrors on your vehicle if your visibility is limited or restricted while towing. State laws may require the use of extended side view mirrors.
- Do not tow a trailer during the first 800 km (500 mi) of vehicle use to prevent damage to the vehicle.
- Perform the first oil change before heavy towing.
- Do not drive over 80 km/h (50 mph) and do not make starts at full acceleration during the first 800 km (500 mi) of trailer towing.
- Tow in D (Drive). If equipped, Tow/Haul mode is recommended for heavier trailers. If the transmission downshifts too often, a lower gear may be selected using Manual mode.

If equipped, the following driver assistance features should be turned off when towing a trailer, or may turn off automatically when a trailer is detected:

- Park assist
- Automatic Parking Assist
- Reverse Automatic Braking
- Rear Cross Traffic Alert
- Rear Cross Traffic Braking
- Lane Change Alert
- Super Cruise and Adaptive Cruise Control, unless equipped with trailering functionality. See your owner's manual.

Automatic Emergency Braking, and Front Pedestrian Braking should be set to Alert unless equipped with Super Cruise.

Towing a trailer requires experience. The combination of the vehicle and trailer is longer and not as responsive as the vehicle itself.

Become familiar with handling and braking by driving on a level road surface before driving on public roads.

The trailer structure, the tires, and the brakes must all be rated to carry the intended cargo. Inadequate trailer equipment can cause the combination to operate in an unexpected or unsafe manner. Before driving, inspect all trailer hitch parts and attachments, safety chains, electrical connectors, lights, tires, and mirrors. See *Towing Equipment* ⇨ *8*.

If the trailer has electric brakes, start the combination moving and then manually apply the trailer brake controller to check that the trailer brakes work. During the trip, occasionally check that the cargo and trailer are secure and that the lights and any trailer brakes are working.

Towing with a Stability Control System

When towing, the stability control system might be heard. The system reacts to vehicle movement caused by the trailer, which mainly occurs during cornering. This is normal when towing heavier trailers.

Following Distance

Stay at least twice as far behind the vehicle ahead as you would when driving without a trailer to help avoid heavy braking and sudden turns.

Passing

More passing distance is needed when towing a trailer. The combination of the vehicle and trailer will not accelerate as quickly and is much longer than the vehicle alone. It is necessary to go much farther beyond the passed vehicle before returning to the lane. Pass on level roadways. Avoid passing on hills if possible.

Backing Up

Hold the bottom of the steering wheel with one hand. To move the trailer to the left, move that hand to the left. To move the trailer to the right, move that hand to the right. Always back up slowly and, if possible, have someone guide you.

Making Turns

Caution

Turn more slowly and make wider arcs when towing a trailer to prevent damage to your vehicle. Making very sharp turns could cause the trailer to contact the vehicle.

Make wide turns when towing to prevent the trailer from crossing over soft shoulders or curbs, or striking road signs, trees, or other objects. Always signal turns well in advance. Do not steer or brake suddenly.

Towing on Grades

Reduce speed and shift to a lower gear before descending a long or steep downhill grade. If the transmission is not downshifted, the brakes may overheat, resulting in reduced braking efficiency.

Tow in D (Drive). If the transmission shifts too often under heavy loads and/or hilly conditions, consider shifting the transmission to a lower gear, or if equipped, use Tow/Haul Mode.

Coolant boils at a lower temperature at higher altitudes than at lower altitudes. If the vehicle is turned off Immediately after towing at a high altitude on steep uphill grades, the vehicle may show signs of overheating. To avoid this, let the vehicle run, preferably on level ground, with the transmission in P (Park) for a few minutes before turning the vehicle off.

Parking on Hills

⚠ Warning

To prevent serious injury or death, always park your vehicle and trailer on a level surface when possible.

When parking your vehicle and your trailer on a hill:

1. Press and hold the brake pedal, but do not shift into P (Park) yet. Turn the wheels toward the curb if facing downhill or into traffic if facing uphill.
2. Have someone place chocks under the trailer wheels.
3. When the wheel chocks are in place, gradually release the brake pedal to allow the chocks to support the load of the trailer.

4. Reapply the brake pedal. Then, apply the parking brake and shift into P (Park).
5. Release the brake pedal.

Leaving After Parking on a Hill

1. Apply and hold the brake pedal.
   1.1 Start the vehicle.
   1.2 Shift into the desired gear.
   1.3 Release the parking brake.
2. Let up on the brake pedal.
3. Drive slowly until the trailer is clear of the chocks.
4. Stop and have someone pick up and store the chocks.

Launching and Retrieving a Boat

Backing the Trailer into the Water

⚠ Warning

- Have all passengers get out of the vehicle before backing onto the sloped part of the ramp. Lower the driver and passenger side windows before backing onto the ramp. This will provide a means of escape in the unlikely event the vehicle slides into the water.
- If the boat launch surface is slippery, have the driver remain in the vehicle with the brake pedal applied while the boat is being launched. The boat launch can be especially slippery at low tide when part of the ramp was previously submerged at high tide. Do not back onto the ramp to launch the boat if you are not sure the vehicle can maintain traction.
- Do not move the vehicle if someone is in the path of the trailer. Some parts of the trailer might be underwater and not visible to people who are assisting in launching the boat.

Caution

If the vehicle tires begin to spin and the vehicle begins to slide toward the water, remove your foot from the accelerator pedal and apply the brake pedal. Seek help to have the vehicle towed up the ramp.

Disconnect the trailer wiring before backing the trailer into the water to prevent damage to the electrical circuits. Reconnect the wiring to the trailer after removing the trailer from the water. If the trailer has electric brakes that can function when the trailer is submerged, leave the electrical trailer connector attached to maintain trailer brake functionality while on the boat ramp.

To Back the Trailer Into the Water

1. Slowly back down the boat ramp until the boat is floating, but no further than necessary.
2. Press and hold the brake pedal, but do not shift into P (Park).
3. Have someone place chocks under the front wheels of the vehicle.

4. Gradually release the brake pedal to allow the chocks to support the load of the trailer.
5. Reapply the brake pedal. Then, apply the parking brake and shift into P (Park).
6. Release the brake pedal.

Pulling the Trailer from the Water

1. Press and hold the brake pedal.
2. Start the vehicle and shift into D (Drive).
3. Release the parking brake.
4. Let up on the brake pedal.
5. Drive slowly until the tires are clear of the chocks.
6. Stop and have someone pick up and store the chocks.
7. Slowly pull the trailer from the water.

Maintenance When Trailer Towing

A vehicle used to tow trailers requires service more often. See your owner's manual.

It is especially important to check the automatic transmission fluid, engine oil, axle lubricant, belts, cooling system, and brake system before and during each trip.

Check periodically that all nuts and bolts on the trailer hitch are tight.

Engine Cooling When Trailer Towing

The cooling system may temporarily overheat during severe operating conditions. See your owner's manual.

Trailer Towing (LSY 2.0L L4 and LGY 3.0L V6 Engines Only)

Caution

Towing a trailer improperly can damage the vehicle and result in costly repairs not covered by the vehicle warranty. To tow a trailer correctly, follow the directions in this section and see your dealer for important information about towing a trailer with the vehicle.

Trailer Weight

⚠ Warning

You and others could be seriously injured or killed if the trailer is too heavy or the trailer brakes are inadequate for the load. The vehicle may be damaged, and the repairs would not be covered by the vehicle warranty.

Only tow a trailer if all the steps in this section have been followed. Ask your dealer for advice and information about towing a trailer.

Never tow a trailer with a V-Series or V-Series Blackwing. These models are not designed or intended to tow a trailer.

Safe trailering requires monitoring the weight, speed, altitude, road grades, outside temperature, and how frequently the vehicle is used to tow a trailer.

Before towing a trailer, always separately weigh:

- The total weight on the vehicle's tires
- The trailer
- The trailer tongue

Trailer Weight Ratings

When towing a trailer, the combined weight of the vehicle, vehicle contents, trailer, and trailer contents must be below all the maximum weight ratings for the vehicle, including:

- Gross Combined Weight Rating
- Gross Vehicle Weight Rating
- Maximum Trailer Weight Rating
- Gross Axle Weight Rating-Rear
- Maximum Trailer Tongue Weight Rating

See “Weight-Distributing Hitch and Adjustment” under *Towing Equipment* ⇨ *8* to determine if equalizer bars are required to obtain the Maximum Trailer Weight Rating.

See “Trailer Brakes” under *Towing Equipment* ⇨ *8* to determine if brakes are required based on your trailer's weight.

The only way to be sure the weight ratings are not exceeded is to verify with a scale.

Gross Combined Weight Rating

Gross Combined Weight Rating is the total allowable weight of the completely loaded vehicle and trailer including any fuel, passengers, cargo, equipment, and accessories. Do not exceed the Gross Combined Weight Rating for your vehicle.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating

For information about the vehicle's maximum load capacity, see your owner's manual. When calculating the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating with a trailer attached, the trailer tongue weight must be included as part of the weight the vehicle is carrying.

Maximum Trailer Weight

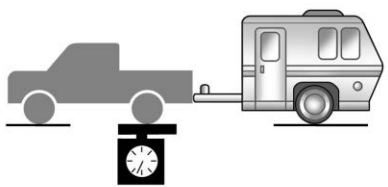
The maximum trailer weight rating is calculated assuming the tow vehicle has a driver, a front seat passenger, and all required trailering equipment. The maximum trailer weight rating represents the heaviest trailer the vehicle can tow, but it may be necessary to reduce the trailer weight to stay within the Gross Combined Weight Rating, Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, maximum trailer tongue load, or Gross Axle Weight Rating-Rear. This is especially true for heavier vehicles with high option content.

Use the tow rating chart to determine how much the trailer can weigh, based on the vehicle model, powertrain, and trailering options.

Vehicle	Gross Combined Mass/Weight Rating (GCMR/GCWR)	Maximum Tongue Weight
LSY RWD	2 340 kg (5,155 lb)	454 kg (1,000 lb)
LSY AWD	2 455 kg (5,400 lb)	454 kg (1,000 lb)
LGY RWD	2 500 kg (5,500 lb)	454 kg (1,000 lb)
LGY AWD	2 560 kg (5,640 lb)	454 kg (1,000 lb)

Rear Gross Axle Weight Rating

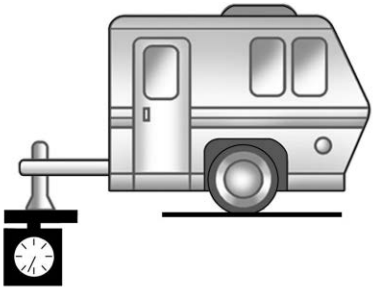
The Rear Gross Axle Weight Rating is the total weight the vehicle's rear axle can support. Do not exceed the Rear Gross Axle Weight Rating for the vehicle with the tow vehicle and trailer fully loaded for the trip, including the weight of the trailer tongue. If using a weight-distributing hitch, do not exceed the Rear Gross Axle Weight Rating before applying the weight distribution spring bars.



For additional assistance with trailering or additional information, see your dealer.

Maximum Trailer Tongue Weight Rating

The maximum trailer tongue weight rating is the allowable trailer tongue weight that the vehicle can support using a conventional trailer hitch. It may be necessary to reduce the overall trailer weight to stay within the maximum trailer tongue weight rating while still maintaining the correct trailer load balance.



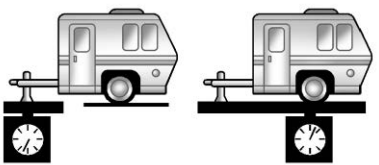
The trailer tongue weight contributes to the Gross Vehicle Weight. Gross Vehicle Weight includes the curb weight of your vehicle, any passengers, cargo, equipment and the trailer tongue weight. Vehicle options, passengers, cargo, and equipment reduce the maximum allowable tongue weight the vehicle can carry, which also reduces the maximum allowable trailer weight.

After loading the trailer, separately weigh the trailer and trailer tongue. Calculate the trailer load balance percentage to see if the weights and distribution are appropriate for your vehicle. If the trailer weight is too high, it may be possible to transfer some of the cargo into your vehicle. If the trailer tongue weight is too high or too low, it may be possible to rearrange some of the cargo inside of the trailer.

Do not exceed the maximum allowable tongue weight for your vehicle. Use the shortest hitch extension available to position the hitch ball closer to your vehicle. This will help reduce the effect of the trailer tongue weight on the trailer hitch and the rear axle.

Trailer Load Balance

The correct trailer load balance must be maintained to ensure trailer stability. Incorrect load balance is a leading cause of trailer sway.



1 2

The trailer tongue weight (1) should be 10–15% of the total loaded trailer weight (2). Some specific trailer types, such as boat trailers, fall outside of this range. See the trailer owner's manual for the recommended trailer tongue weight for each trailer. Never exceed the maximum loads for your vehicle, hitch and trailer.

The trailer load balance percentage is calculated as: weight (1) divided by weight (2) times 100.

If a cargo carrier is used in the trailer hitch receiver, choose a carrier that positions the load as close to the vehicle as possible. Make sure the total weight, including the carrier, is no more than half of the maximum allowable tongue weight for the vehicle or 227 kg (500 lb), whichever is less.

Towing Equipment

Hitches

Always use the correct hitch equipment for your vehicle. Crosswinds, large trucks going by, and rough roads can affect the trailer and the hitch.

Proper hitch equipment for your vehicle helps maintain control of the vehicle-trailer combination. Many trailers can be towed using a weight-carrying hitch which has a coupler latched to the hitch ball, or a tow eye latched to a pintle hook. Other trailers may require a weight-distributing hitch that uses spring bars to distribute the trailer tongue weight between your vehicle and trailer axles.

Tires

- Do not tow a trailer while using a compact spare tire on the vehicle.
- Tires must be properly inflated to support loads while towing a trailer. See your owner's manual for instructions on proper tire inflation.

Trailer Brakes

⚠ Warning

Never attempt to tamper with the hydraulic brake system for your trailer brakes. Do not connect a trailer's hydraulic brake system directly to your vehicle's hydraulic brake

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Warning (Continued)

system. If you do, both the vehicle antilock brakes and the trailer brakes may not function, which could result in a crash.

Loaded trailers over 680 kg (1,500 lb) must be equipped with brake systems and with brakes for each axle.

Use trailer braking equipment meeting or exceeding the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) requirement CAN3-D313.

State or local regulations may require trailers to have their own braking system if the loaded weight of the trailer exceeds a maximum value. Read and follow the instructions for the trailer brakes so they are installed, adjusted, and maintained properly.

Trailer Lights

Always check all trailer lights are working at the beginning of each trip, and periodically on longer trips.

Turn Signals When Towing a Trailer

When properly connected, the trailer turn signals should will illuminate to indicate the vehicle is turning, changing lanes, or stopping. When towing a trailer, the arrows on the instrument cluster will illuminate even if the trailer is not properly connected or the bulbs are burned out.

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