

Subject:

July 2021 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

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Newsletter

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5 Reasons Why We Chose a Travel Trailer over a 5th Wheel

An apologize for errors in the articles posted last month. The article was sent to me and I should have proof read it before publishing the article.

How To Prepare Your Truck for Towing: Related Questions

Is towing hard on a truck? No. Towing a trailer is not hard on a truck. In fact, it's much easier on the truck than driving 18 hour days pulling a load down the interstate.

The reason for this is that towing puts less strain on the engine and other components because there are no gear changes or braking, which causes wear and tear on those parts. It also puts less stress on your transmission because you're not stopping and starting every few minutes like you do when pulling another vehicle behind you, such as a semi-truck does.

What do I need to know before towing a trailer? Know how much weight your truck is rated for. Make sure your truck is fully loaded, including the trailer's weight and its own weight (which appears on the sticker inside the cab). Make sure your tires are at their recommended pressures and you're ready for any quick emergency maneuvers, such as backing up from a campsite or pulling out of a parking lot.

How can I improve my towing performance? The first thing you should do to prepare your truck for towing ensures that your trailer's hitch has been properly mounted. The hitch should be mounted with brackets and bolts that are rated AT LEAST 2x the weight of your trailer.

To further improve the strength of your trailer's attachment to your truck, many new trailers have a device called a retention device that keeps the trailer from moving when you pull it. You want to ensure that is in place on both sides because it helps prevent your hitch from dragging along the ground when it's parked or stored.

What can you tow under 1500 lbs? Generally, you can tow a wide variety of things under 1500 lbs. because they're so light and the truck is pulling so little. This includes pop-up campers, ATVs, golf carts, and other toys. You can also tow just about anything with wheels under 1500 lbs.

What transmission is best for towing? You want to use a transmission that has Overdrive. This is a gear that allows the engine to run at a lower RPM, which improves fuel mileage and makes it easier on the engine.

Can tow ruin transmission?

No. There is a myth that towing vehicles will ruin your transmission. This is not true. Lightly loaded trucks under 1500 lbs (even 1000 lbs) will not ruin your transmission, because you're not shifting much or doing hard acceleration or braking.

How far can you tow automatic transmission? This depends on the transmission. You can typically tow 1500 lbs for about 20 miles, and 2000-2500 lbs for about 40 – 50 miles. If your trailer is heavier, you won't be able to tow as far, especially in high temperatures.

Why is 2wd better than 4wd for towing? The main reason to tow with your truck in 2wd is so that you can travel in slippery conditions. This is because the power of your engine, rather than being transferred to the wheels, will be transferred to the trailer through your transmission and axle.

Questions to Ask When Shopping for Your Fifth Wheel Hitch

What to Ask When Shopping for Your Fifth Wheel Hitch

Here is what you need to ask when you're shopping for a new fifth wheel hitch.

If you're looking for as much space as possible, expansive floor plans, and top-of-the-line amenities, you're looking for a fifth wheel RV- it's as simple as that! This is by far the best way to travel with everything you want and need, plus have your truck there too in case you want to go into town. You see, fifth wheels must be towed by a pickup truck. This also means that they require a special hitch mechanism to connect the RV to your truck.

If you don't get the right hitch, you won't be able to enjoy all the benefits a fifth wheel RV has to offer. Don't worry; it's not too hard to get the correct options. If you ask a few questions when you're shopping, you should get the right answers and find the perfect hitch for you. Be sure to ask:

#1 What is my truck's towing capacity?

You can't tow a RV that is too heavy for your truck, even with the best hitch in the world! If you install a hitch that is not rated for your truck and fifth wheel, you are risking severe damage to your property and even injury to yourself and others. In order to find your towing capacity, check the truck's and the RV's owner's manuals. You are looking to learn their Gross Vehicle Weight Rating. Remember, you're looking for the weight of the fully-loaded vehicles, including passengers, fuel, accessories and any gear/equipment packed into it. The whole point of an RV is to put a lot of people and things inside!

#2 How does a hitch attach to my truck?

Fifth wheel hitches can attach to a pickup bed in a number of ways. You'll need to figure out which way is right for your truck and your RV. It's probably one of these three:

Traditional rail system: In this formation, the rails are installed in the truck bed while the hitch is attached to the rails.

Under bed mount: Here, a mount is installed underneath bed to keep it clear when not towing. The hitch is placed on the bed and attached to mounts below.

Gooseneck mount: A gooseneck mount means it is installed underneath the truck bed. In this formation, only the ball hitch is above the truck bed. If this is your hitch, your fifth wheel may require an adapter.

#3 Do I need any other accessories?

It makes sense to buy anything else you need at the same time, like a backup camera. What about towing mirrors or brake control? Order it all at the same time so you're ready to go! Knowing the answer to these questions makes [shopping for a new fifth wheel hitch](#) so much easier! At Air Safe, we carry several options in our online catalogue. A bit of research and savvy shopping is all you need in order to find the right hitch that will make all of your travel

dreams come true!

AirSafeHitches.com



We carry the largest selection of AIRSAFE™ Hitches

Check out our Hitches and Prices

Overall towing safety, comfort, reduced wear and tear, fuel savings, on both vehicles towing independently is achieved thru the positive control of all transference.

With deteriorating road conditions any tow vehicle will produce negative transference thousands of times per mile. With a conventional standard lock down hitch all your transference is 100%.

Any trailer on its own produces and transfers 100% of all the same Omni-directional negative shock forces that is transferred to the tow vehicle because of the conventional hitch.

Colliding occurrence transfers and adds velocity between these 2 objects once a body starts in motion stays in motion until it is absorbed or transferred. With a conventional hitch both are the absorber/transform

When you properly configure a way to absorb all these negative Omni-directional forces, you eliminate/absorb 80% to 95% of these negative forces, allowing a more independent towing situation.

Most people are also compounding all the negative forces by overloading their truck and trailer. Trailer Life, writer Ken Freund stated: *"When you overload a vehicle, you are using yourself and your family as test pilots to find out what fails first. It also puts all other users of the road at risk."*

The bottom line is the ride. Enjoy an 90% smoother ride and a 75% safer tow. Driver fatigue is greatly reduced and your family, friends, and animals will enjoy the smoother, less bouncy ride. The wear and tear on your truck and trailer will be greatly reduced.

You can add air springs to the truck and to the trailer, but this will not fix the problem if you still have a hard connection hitch. Fix the problem at the source, with our Air Ride Trailer Hitches you do not need air suspension on the trailer or truck unless you just want all the comfort you can get and don't mind paying for it.

The Air Ride Hitch is a lasting investment as it can be easily transferred to a new vehicle and give you years and years of good service.

[Click to check out the benefits of an air hitch vs a rigid hitch.](#)

5 Tips for Safely Towing a Travel Trailer

There are lots of reasons a camper might decide to choose a travel trailer rather than a self-powered motor coach.

It's not just because travel trailers can be so much more affordable (given that you already have a capable tow vehicle).

Sure, it's convenient — and, OK, maybe even a little fun — to be able to make a sandwich or use the restroom while your trusty driver is navigating your house on wheels down the road. And there's something to be said for not having to do a whole lot to set up camp aside from, well, parking the dang thing.

But travel trailers allow you tons of flexibility and convenience that motorhomes lack. For one thing, you'll automatically have a smaller, secondary vehicle available with which to explore your destination, which can become problematic if you're in a large motorcoach and your regular car isn't set up to tow.

Travel trailers also offer some of the very best bang for your buck in the way of living space and amenities. After all, travel trailers don't have to devote any interior room or manufacturing budget to installing a cockpit or chassis, so their designers have more room to build out functional and luxurious features.

But one drawback of RVing with a trailer is the intimidation so many drivers feel creeping up on them when they so much as think about driving one. It makes sense. A travel trailer makes an already-large truck into a huge rig with a lever in the middle. How much more space do you need to leave for braking? Which way do you turn to back it up the right way, again? What if it jackknifes?

But before you send yourself into a tizzy, take a few deep breaths. Safe travel trailer and pop up camper towing is totally possible, so long as you follow safe trailering procedures. And we promise, it's not as hard as you might imagine.

Here are some easy-to-follow towing safety tips that will help put your mind to ease on your upcoming travel trailer adventure.

Towing a Trailer

Never towed anything before in your life? Here's where to start.

1. Make sure you have a capable tow vehicle.

Just because your vehicle is equipped with a tow hitch doesn't mean it's got what it takes to tow your RV. And even some large, seemingly-capable trucks and SUVs have a surprisingly low towing capacity.

Instead of just hooking it up and hoping for the best, you need to find the official documentation about your vehicle's towing capacity and compare it to the weight of your trailer — *including* the weight of all the stuff you put into it! Although no one expects you to weigh out every piece of clothing or box of cereal you bring on board, a good rule of thumb to look for is the GVWR, which is the maximum total load weight the RV is rated for.

Make sure your towing capacity is at or above that number. Not only is it a safety concern, but it also voids many RV insurance policies if your tow vehicle doesn't cut it.

2. Pack light.

Water alone weighs more than eight pounds per gallon. That's why it's a much better idea to fill up your tank right before you set up camp, rather than dragging it around while you're en route to your destination.

Although water will be a chief concern, you should also go easy on clothing, food, accessories, gear, and everything else, too. Not only can it weigh down your trailer, but it'll also make your enclosed space feel much more claustrophobic.

Trailer Safety

Don't worry. If you're careful, pulling a trailer is as safe as any other kind of RVing. But you do need to keep a few things in mind.

3. Here's the scoop on trailer weight distribution.

It might sound complicated, but it's really simple.

Basically, the majority of the trailer's total load weight — 60% or more — needs to be concentrated in the front end of the RV to help keep it running smooth and straight on the road

behind your tow vehicle. When too much weight — more than 40% — is concentrated in the back of the trailer, it becomes “tail heavy,” capable of wagging the dog, so to speak. (In other words: It could whip you off the road. Not good!)

Fortunately, this is a pretty simple problem to avoid. RVs are designed with these physics in mind, so the weightier appliances and tanks are generally situated toward the front. Some trailers might even have a special weight-distributing camper trailer hitch to help make you even safer.

But just to be careful, don't pile everything you own into the rear cabin!

Safe Trailer Towing Basics

Yes, there's a learning curve when it comes to towing... but it's not as hard as you might think!

4. Take it slow.

While you'll probably hear lots of different advice when you're first starting out with your travel trailer, here's one rule that's never contested.

No matter what, take it nice and easy when you're towing.

You've got a whole lot of weight behind you, which makes everything take longer — speeding up, slowing down, and stopping. While there's no one magic safe speed for towing a travel trailer, it's much easier to get into an accident if you're speeding, and you could lose control of the rig.

So hang out in the right hand lane and get used to watching smaller cars pass you. You took an RV to actually see the country, right? Relax and enjoy the journey!

Safe Trailer Towing Guide

Stay safe and sound on the road.

5. Never slam on the brakes.

You already know your trailer is too heavy to stop on a dime. But what you might not know is that if you try, all that weight can make you more prone to skidding, jack knifing, and worse.

Which is to say: No matter what happens, don't slam on your brakes. (This ties back into item #4 on the list— if you're not speeding, you're less likely to need to.)

Many trailers come equipped with electronic brakes which help regulate the stopping process. In fact, depending on your state and the trailer's weight, having a braked trailer might even be written into legal safe trailer towing regulations. Either way, your RV dealer will make sure you're well acquainted with these accessories before you leave the sales floor.

See? Hitch and towing safety doesn't have to be complicated. Once you spend a little time behind the wheel and in front of the hitch, you're sure to get the hang of it.

Enjoy your trip, and stay safe out there!

Towing Gooseneck Trailers

When you mention trailer hitch most people think of the ball style and although common for some types of hauling the gooseneck trailer hitch is much stronger and much more maneuverable. Gooseneck trailers are very common in trailers used to haul livestock.

In fact it's a common occurrence on for horse trailers. This style of hitch is found in the truck bed above the rear axle. The trailer is then secured to the hitch. Here's some things you should know about this style of hitch.

1. Goosenecks are one of the strongest hitches on the market with the capability of handling up to 30,000 pounds.
2. They are much more maneuverable allowing the driver to make sharper turns than with a ball hitch. This is because of the hitches location.
3. You will have to drill a hole in the middle of your truck bed for proper installation.
4. The ball of the hitch has to rise above the truck bed so that you can fasten your trailer properly.

5. A gooseneck is relatively easy to remove when not in use and some styles also fold flat in the bed.
6. Make sure your truck is capable of handling the trailer weight.

A gooseneck hitch is not a fifth wheel although it is commonly mistaken as such. Although similar to a fifth wheel they are actually second in towing capacity. The gooseneck is actually more difficult to install than a fifth wheel and their functionality is quite limited.

A gooseneck cannot be installed in all trucks. The truck you choose must meet the weight requirements for the trailer you will be towing.

There are pros and cons to both gooseneck trailers and 5th Wheels. A gooseneck has a tube that hangs down from under the bunk which hooks to a heavy duty 2 5/16" ball mounted in the truck's bed. It takes up very little room but if you want to be able to use the entire deck you can buy a fold down ball set.

The disadvantage to the gooseneck is the hook up can be a bit of a pain. You need to position the ball directly under the hitch which isn't that easy. And you also have to crawl into the box to hook up the safety chains which can be quite an annoyance.

A 5th wheel besides being the strongest hitch system is probably the easiest to hook up and use. The 5th wheel hangs under the bunk and there's a large steel plate with a 2 inch pin that almost aligns itself. All you have to do is back up and get close and it will literally connect itself. You don't have to crawl around hooking up safety chains in fact there aren't any. A 5th wheel is really a one man band. Two can actually be a crowd.

The disadvantage is that it costs a fair bit and it's a bit of a truck bed hog taking up almost half of your bed. There is a removable type but it is heavy and awkward.

No matter what type of hitch you are using hooking up your trailer and riding off into the sunset is somewhat of a myth. There are many regulations that you need to understand and comply with before you begin towing whether you are using a gooseneck hitch, a 5th wheel hitch or regular ball hitch.

Gooseneck trailers are a great pick for livestock and if you want to enjoy some recreational time consider 5th wheel trailers - both smart choices.

Summer Bucket List Trips

Summer is here and it's time to hit the road. Check out our list of can't-miss RV destinations and road trips.

Summer is officially here, which means it's vacation season. Whether you plan to stay close to home, visit a favorite summertime destination or explore someplace new, there's no better time to take your RV rental out for a spin. Consider adding one of our favorite cities and highway road trips to your summer bucket list.

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

For the beach lover, this road trip is a perfect weekend getaway – or longer if you take frequent stops and see more sites. The Pacific Coast Highway runs from San Diego to San Francisco and takes you along some of the most beautiful coastlines in the country. While both starting and ending cities offer an abundance of things to do, we recommend you stop to enjoy all the amazing sites in between.

You can catch some sun and surf in Santa Cruz, soak in the scenic coast with towering redwood trees in Big Sur and hit trendy bars and restaurants, like Milk & Honey, in Santa Barbara. Take a look at this sample travel itinerary for a little road trip inspiration.

ROUTE 66

Tackling Route 66 is no small feat. If you're looking for the ultimate summer bucket list trip, look no further than trekking across the U.S. along this historic route. The focus of pop culture for decades, Route 66 has been featured in countless movies, books and songs.

You can check out this list for top attractions to visit by state. You'll want to make sure you take a photo at the official starting point in Chicago, stop at a local diner, catch a drive-in movie one weekend at the 66 Drive-In Theater in Missouri or take a photo standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona. This road trip is sure to be full nostalgia and good old-fashioned charm. Just plan to be in it for the long haul as the complete Route 66 journey could take anywhere from two to four weeks, depending on how many stops you take.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Seattle may be known for its rain, but the summer months bring beautiful weather and a chance to escape the heat. You can spend several days exploring famous city destinations like the Space Needle and Pike's Marketplace and local restaurants and breweries. Seattle is also an outdoor adventurer's dream with are endless activities to choose from.

Take a hike up Mount Si, go rock climbing at Little Si, known as Exit 32 or jump on a paddleboard at Alki Beach. This spot as made famous by when Tom Hanks played here with his movie son in Sleepless in Seattle. Stay nearby at the Maple Grove RV Resort, one of the top-rated campsites in the area

SEDONA, ARIZONA

For the yogi in your group, the city of Sedona is the perfect summer bucket list trip. Known around the globe for its beautiful red rock formations, healing vortexes and thriving arts culture, visitors travel great distances just to feel the positive energy of the city. From luxury resorts to outdoor adventure, there's something for everyone to enjoy in this southwestern destination.

Enjoy an early morning yoga session on the red rocks before heading out on an adventurous jeep tour. Or maybe you'd rather hike to popular landmarks like Cathedral rock or Devil's Bridge. The latter is a natural sandstone arch that is accessible by both the casual and experienced hiker. The best part, there's no shortage of campgrounds to choose from.

SWEET, SWEET SUMMERTIME

With these summer bucket list trips, you are sure to make memories that will last a lifetime. If you choose to embark on one of our recommended highway road trips, look into Cruise America's one-way rental program. With this option, you can drive there and book your own flight home. Spend more time enjoying the sites along the way and less time rushing to get back.

Survey Shows 56 Million People Are Planning A Summer RV Trip

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If you are planning an RV trip this summer, you are not alone. A recent survey estimates that 56 million Americans plan to take at least one summer RV trip.

"More and more Americans are ready to travel this summer and 56 million of them are planning to go RVing in an RV they rent, own, or borrow," said RVIA President and CEO Craig Kirby. "Even with other forms of travel returning, the desire to use an RV to get outdoors and experience an active outdoor lifestyle is stronger than ever. RVing has been cemented as a mainstream travel option that is here to stay."

What the RV survey reveals The survey, conducted by Cairn Consulting for RV Industry Association (RVIA), was based on the responses of 1,276 U.S. leisure travelers. (Leisure travelers are defined as residents who have taken some type of leisure trip in the past 12 months.) The following numbers were extrapolated from the questionnaires.

Out of the estimated 180 million leisure travelers in the nation, 31% (or 56 million) are planning an RV trip this summer. Their main reasons to do so do not surround the pandemic. In fact, the top reasons for wanting to RV this summer involve a desire to get outdoors and explore, take advantage of remote work and school opportunities, and a chance to travel with the family.

"Interestingly, a full 10% of current non-RVers plan to travel in an RV this summer," said Kirby. He mentioned that while many non-RVers are planning to rent a unit, a quarter of leisure travelers are considering purchasing an RV in the coming months.

While Kirby admits, "That's great news for the RV industry as it strives to meet the record-breaking demand for RVs," this continued upswing in consumer demand could also work to the industry's disadvantage, putting a strain on the already stretched out supply of RVs available on the market.

Where are travelers going?

Whether the travelers are new to RVing or veteran RVers, national parks are the most popular destinations. When it comes to how far folks want to travel to get to a destination, RVers are willing to go the extra mile. RVers are twice as likely to travel to locations 16+ hours away than other leisure travelers.

But RV travel won't stop at the end of the season. On the contrary, the RVIA survey data revealed that 65 million Americans would like to take an RV trip next year. 91% of RVers and 60% of leisure travelers plan to travel more or the same amount in the next six months.

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