

Types of Trailer Hitches

The four most common types of hitches are:

- **Receiver-style Hitches**

Receiver-style hitches are attached under the tow vehicle (usually frame-mounted) and are designed to carry the weight of the trailer (GTW) through the tongue weight of the trailer (TW). The amount of tongue weight that is carried on the hitch ball and ball mount (attached to the receiver hitch with a pin and clip) is roughly calculated to be between 10%-15% of the GTW. For example, a trailer weighing 2,000 GTW will usually have a tongue weight of between 200-300 lbs. It is this tongue weight that is carried directly on the ball/ball mount. Keep in mind that the TW only accounts for part of the weight rating scheme. You should never tow more than what your hitch and/or vehicle is rated for regardless of the circumstances. Some receiver-style hitches, i.e. 2" receivers, have two gross weight ratings. One for weight carrying and another for weight distribution.



- **Weight Distributing Hitch (or load equalizer)**

Weight distributing hitches are used in conjunction with with a receiver hitch and special parts that distribute the tongue weight among all tow vehicle and trailer axles. The use of the weight distributing hitch will often lend itself toward higher capacity ratings for the trailer hitches themselves. That said, never tow more than either vehicle is rated for. Remember, weight distribution hitches can help with sway problems a little bit but to eliminate sway, you must purchase a sway control.



- **Fifth Wheel Hitch (5th Wheel)**

Affords more towing capacity than traditional receiver-style weight distributing hitches. Designed for mounting the trailer connection point in a pickup truck bed, with a kingpin.



- **Gooseneck Hitch**

Affords more towing capacity than traditional receiver-style weight distributing hitches. Designed for mounting the trailer connection point in a pickup truck bed, with a ball and coupler.

For receiver hitch towing, there are several essential [towing components](#) that complete the package; such as the ball mount, hitch ball, coupler, safety chains, wiring, brake controls, hitch pin/lock and sway control. Whether you tow an RV, camper, boat, horses, a race car, snowmobiles, motorcycles, dirt bikes or personal watercraft, you'll want to customize your towing experience with a variety of accessories such as cargo and bike carriers, winches, tie downs and ball covers just to name a few.