

## HITCH CAPACITY

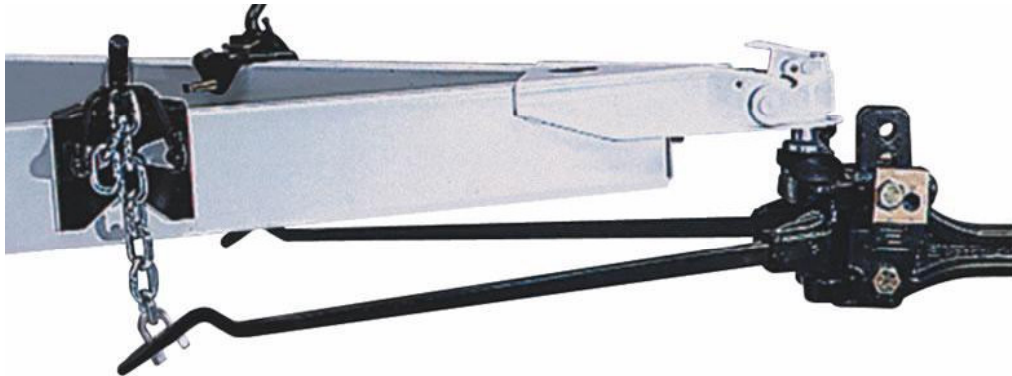
Three things you should know before you hitch your horse trailer to your pickup: the GVW of the trailer, the towing capacity of the pickup and the load capacity of the hitch on the pickup.

First, GVW or Gross Vehicle Weight, meaning the total weight carrying capacity of the trailer, which includes the weight of the trailer and everything you put inside the trailer. There is a data tag on your trailer that will tell you the GVW of the trailer; normally it is on or near the tongue. If you over load your trailer you could cause damage to its frame, axles, bearings, tires and/or wheels or a combination there of.

The towing capacity of your pickup should be on the data tag inside the driver's doorframe. This as you may have deducted is the maximum GVW you should pull behind your vehicle. I just looked on the Internet and was surprised to find how much a half-ton pickup can pull: Ford 8,500 to 11,000 lbs; Chevy up to 10,500 lbs; Dodge 9,100 lbs and Toyota Tundra 10,300 lbs. Personally, due to life experiences I would never put more than a 3 horse trailer behind a half ton pickup.

Lastly and most often over looked is the capacity of your receiver hitch. Every ½, ¾ and 1-ton pickup I have ever seen, with a factory-installed receiver hitch has a Category IV hitch. A Category IV hitch has a 500lb tongue capacity with 5,000lb tow capacity Un-Distributed or 1,000lb tongue capacity with 10,000lb tow capacity Distributed. Many, many people are driving around in a time bomb! Some day that over loaded hitch is going to fail and you stand to loose everything, your animals, your trailer, your pickup and maybe even your life.

**Distribution Hitch**



Know the limits of your equipment and protect yourself and the huge investment you are driving around with!