

TOWABLE SAFETY TIPS & PROCEDURES

A TOWABLE (travel trailer, fifth wheel, camper) IS NOT DIFFICULT TO PULL, but we require that you read through and sign-off on the following Safety Tips & Procedures that will help ensure your safety, as well as make your trip much more enjoyable!

***Hook-ups (electricity, fresh water, waste/sewage) – WE DO NOT RECOMMEND OPERATING “OFF THE GRID” UNLESS YOU ARE A VERY EXPERIENCED camper.** It is important to connect the trailer to hook-ups at all overnight stops (electricity, water, sewer), otherwise you are considered to be operating “off-the-grid.” Unless you are extremely knowledgeable about managing battery power, propane tanks and fresh/waste/gray water, this could turn your well-intentioned get-away into...well, a nightmare scenario. The tank sizes for fresh/gray/black water vary in different trailers, depending on the make, model & size. As you can imagine, with small tanks, you can run out of fresh water VERY quickly and your waste tank can fill up extremely fast. Then what happens? Unless you bring additional fresh water with you or you refill repeatedly at planned locations, you'll have no water for showers, cooking, washing hands, etc. And unless dumped frequently, the waste tank will begin to smell...it's not a good situation to get yourself into.

***No Persons or Animals are allowed inside a towable while it is being pulled or moved.**

***Shut Off** – The furnace, water heater, refrigerator, stove, propane and generator, as well as any other open flame systems **MUST BE TURNED OFF** while refueling gasoline, diesel or propane.

***Securing Objects** – All loose objects must be secured prior to movement of the towable.

***Doors** – Lock all doors when the towable is in motion.

***Exhaust Ports** – Exhaust ports for the furnace and water heater are extremely hot when in use. Contact with these ports will cause burn injury...USE CAUTION.

***Emergency Windows & Exits** – Emergency window exits are not to be opened except for an emergency. Danger of falling from the towable exists with the emergency exit open. Observe and warn all children of danger.

***Roof Tops** – Rooftops are very dangerous and extreme caution must be observed if an emergency occurs and accessing the roof becomes necessary.

***Checking Tires** – The trailer owner will check the tires carefully prior to your departure. Each time you make a stop during your trip, be sure to check all tires for wear, cuts, bulges, inflation. Be sure to properly distribute the weight of your personal belongings put on board.

***Steps & Platforms – ALWAYS raise steps before moving the towable.** Open step areas and raised platforms can be potential hazards during darkness. Be aware of their location and use lighting if available.

***Awning** – Operating the awning can cause finger and hand injury. **KNOW ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS** and the operation of the awning before attempting use.

***Weather Warnings** – **ALWAYS BE AWARE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS** in the areas around you when you are using the awning. The awning should immediately be rolled in if there is any chance of winds, rainstorms or other weather that may cause damage to the awning. Before retiring for the night, roll in the awning to prevent damage in the event of unexpected weather while sleeping.

***Towable Size** – Pulling a towable adds length, width and height to your overall vehicle. These differences do call for special driving procedures.

***Starting and Stopping.** Because of the added length and weight added to your vehicle, it does take longer to accelerate and stop, therefore, do not follow too close in traffic.

***Be Aware of Your Added Length.** Be aware of this and make the necessary adjustments when driving, turning and parking.

***Know the MINIMUM height clearance. VERIFY THE HEIGHT OF THE TOWABLE BEFORE YOU DEPART and be aware of all height clearance and warning signs.** Be alert and avoid hitting overhanging tree branches, carport roofs, and low roofs over filling stations, motels, restaurants, etc. **DO NOT** go through the drive-thru of any restaurant, instead, park the motorhome and walk in. Keep in mind that the roof air conditioner is sometimes higher than the roof itself. Allow for plenty of clearance.

***Due to the added length of the towable, your turning radius is greater.** Also, when driving from a flat surface up an incline or vice versa, the rear end will drag. Be aware and make necessary adjustments.

***Be aware that a towable is buffeted by cross winds and air currents created by passing trucks.** Slow down driving speed. Anticipate these effects and compensate for them.

***When backing the towable, use the side mirrors and have someone be a lookout, even if there is a rear monitor.** In close quarters, have someone give directions from the outside, while you view things through the side view mirrors.

***Mountain Driving –** Use low gear on inclines where the transmission is repeatedly upshifting and down-shifting. The proper way to descend is to put the transmission in low gear, thus avoiding the over use of the brakes.

***Gravel Roads –** Pulling a towable is reasonably easy on dirt and gravel roads. However, on such roads, gravel thrown up by oncoming traffic can produce dents in the fiberglass or cause damage to other parts of the towable.

***Slippery Roads –** Slow down and exercise extra caution when you encounter slippery conditions. Traction may be better due to weight, but if you start to slide, the extra weight will carry you further than when driving your vehicle without pulling a towable.

***Back Country Roads –** Pulling a towable is not advised on really rough roads. These roads frequently wind through woods which have not been cleared sufficiently to permit the huge bulk of a motorhome to pass. Also, due to the height & length of a towable, any unevenness in the road, especially side to side unevenness, may result in significant damage to the top, sides and under-carriage.

***Highway Driving –** Frequently, long lines of cars collect behind vehicles pulling towables. When this happens, the driver should pull off the road to let the cars go by. If you do not do this, particularly daring drivers may take a dangerous risk to get by and you and the towable will be the focal point of a potential accident.

***Windy Conditions –** Towables, by their very nature, are high profile vehicles, and they are adversely affected by windy conditions. If the wind is blowing, your best bet is to slow down. Speed and wind make for very dangerous situations. Turn on the radio and check for wind advisories. If the situation is dangerous (or you see other high-profile vehicles such as large trucks, motorhomes and RVs pulled over to the side), pull over and wait for the wind to subside.

***Freezing Weather –** When temperatures drop, driving conditions change. In addition to watching for icy roads (including hard to see black ice), cold weather may cause freezing of the systems. If the temperature drops below freezing, the operations guide gives specific actions to take to prevent damage to the systems. In this situation, you would want to call the Owner or Manager.

***IF YOU ARE IN AN ACCIDENT -** Always place priority on checking to see if anyone is hurt and call 911. Even if no one is hurt, you will still need a police report. Be sure to document the other driver's license information, their auto insurance information and take photos of everything. You'll also want to get phone numbers for the other driver. It's a good idea to take clear photos of their documents instead of writing it all down, just make sure you can see the documents & all information clearly in the photos. You will be expected to provide your driver's license, your auto insurance ID card, and the insurance information for the towable (which is inside the towable in a clear plastic protector).

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE SAFETY INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH. READ ALL MANUFACTURER INFORMATION AND SAFETY TIPS. FOLLOW ALL LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL SPEED LAWS. PLAN YOUR ROUTE AND KNOW YOUR VEHICLE LIMITATIONS.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED, AND UNDERSTAND, THE PROPER SAFETY OPERATION OF ALL APPLIANCES AND SYSTEMS CONTAINED WITHIN THE RENTAL TOWABLE.

RENTER:

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

ADDITIONAL DRIVER:

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____