

### HOW MUCH CAN I TOW WITH A FIFTH-WHEEL?

2010 RAM 3500

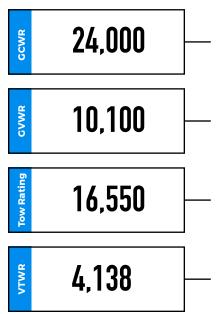
Tow Rating

Boasting about towing a heavy load is common in this day and age. It's the focus of nearly every truck commercial. But the answer to how much you can safely tow isn't always easy to find and there are many variables. Nonetheless, weight ratings are important to understand and follow.

Truck manufacturers give their trucks specific ratings after extensive testing. Tow ratings are based on the capacity of a truck's engine, transmission, and brakes to safely handle the weight of a loaded trailer. Truck manufacturers calculate how much a truck can safely accelerate and stop before assigning a tow rating. For Gross Weight Ratings, the truck's tires, frame, and suspension must be able to bear the load. It's important to never exceed the ratings assigned by the truck, trailer, or hitch manufacturers for the specific equipment you are using.

Fifth-Wheel hitches should be tested for strength and durability and rated according to SAE J-2638.

# FINDING MANUFACTURER WEIGHT LIMITS



### **Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR)**

is the maximum allowable weight of the tow vehicle and the loaded trailer including all cargo and passengers.

### Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)

is the maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle.

#### **Max Tow Rating**

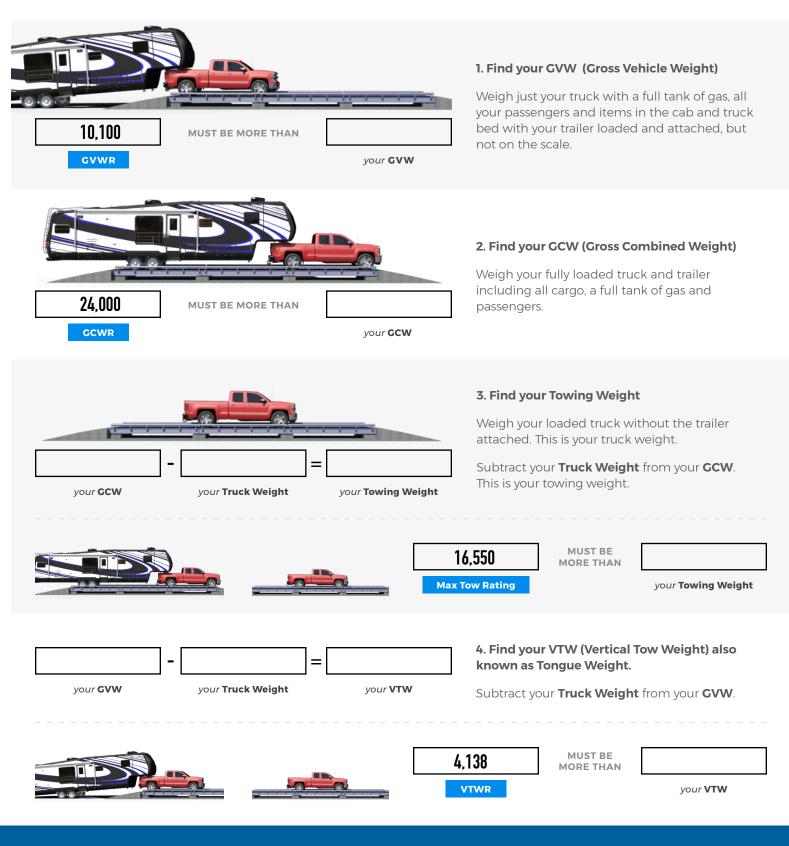
Sometimes called maximum towing capacity, is the maximum allowable weight that a vehicle can tow.

#### Vertical Towing Weight Rating (VTWR)

is the downward force that the tongue of the trailer applies to the hitch of the tow vehicle. Your hitch should be no more than 25% of your truck's Tow Rating.

# FINDING YOUR ACTUAL WEIGHTS

Take your loaded truck and loaded trailer to a scale at a truck stop, quarry, or material supply center. For a small fee you can weigh your tow vehicle and trailer on their scale.



**IMPORTANT!** 

Even though you may be under your vehicle's Max Towing Rating, when your Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) goes up, (more passengers, more cargo) your ability to tow the Max Towing Rating may not be possible, because: **the Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) must not be exceeded**.