

WARNING!!!

If you're going to be shopping for a tow vehicle or trailer, BEWARE!!! Not all salespeople are looking out for your best interests!!!

Many (not all) RV and tow vehicle salespeople have a clue as to what they are selling. Some salespeople may look at the rating sticker on the receiver (on either your current vehicle or the new one you are looking at) and see that it is capable of handling 10,000#, but that is not necessarily what the rest of the vehicle is capable of.

If you go to a dealer and a salesperson says something like, "This truck can tow anything", or, "Your truck can pull anything on the lot", you either need to find a more educated and honest salesperson or more reputable dealership, and QUICK!!! Do not be sold or conned into buying anything on the word of a salesperson!!! Do your homework first, or you will regret it later.

When shopping for a tow vehicle, pick up a sales brochure on the models you are interested in. Also pick up one of the manufacturer's "Towing Guide" brochure (GM, Ford and Dodge have them).

When shopping for the RV, of course you'll get a sales brochure, right? How else will you remember all the models you will be looking at.

With brochures and literature in hand, you will be ready to start figuring out what might make the best combination of tow vehicle and RV trailer for you and your needs.

Read the other topics on this website so you'll have a complete understanding of what you need to know to make an informed buying decision. With what you will learn here and from other sources, you may end up knowing more about towing than the salespeople you talk to.

If you already have a tow vehicle, check out the section, "What can I tow?" It will help you understand what your vehicle is capable of.

The "tow rating" is determined by the manufacturer, and it is the maximum amount of weight the vehicle can safely handle. Factors such as engine size, cooling system, transmission, axle ratio, chassis, suspension, brakes, tires and a few other components all play a part in determining the "tow rating".

And then there are the highly debated advantages and disadvantages of gas verses diesel engines. From my own personal analysis, you don't need a diesel unless you will be towing a lot of miles, towing in high elevation (the mountains) or the trailer you are considering is very heavy.

Here are some advantages to a diesel engine:

- Better fuel mileage.
- Higher torque at low speeds which gives better starting from a stop.
- More durable than a gas engine. Diesel engines can go several thousands of miles before major engine work needs to be done.

Here are some disadvantages of a diesel engine:

- Noisy
- Initial cost is higher than a gas engine
- Maintenance and repair costs are usually higher
- Not all gas stations sell diesel fuel
- Slower acceleration than gas engines
- Fuel problems in extremely cold climates