

Introduction

Recreational vehicles (RVs) are popular for camping and travel. Recreational trailers are connected to the tow vehicle (usually a pickup truck) by a fifth wheel or a ball and hitch assembly. A fifth wheel allows towing a heavier trailer. One advantage of a fifth wheel assembly is that the trailer can be towed without loss of stability, as the weight is applied closer to the center of the truck, rather than to the rear as is the case with a ball and hitch assembly.

Fast Fact

Many RV's have slide-outs. At the touch of a button, the slide-out moves a portion of the trailer's exterior wall outward to enlarge the inside area.



Towing a recreational trailer safely requires gaining experience and understanding of how to drive these large vehicle combinations safely.

Fast Fact

You may only tow one trailer for recreational purposes.

- A motorhome may tow a car (a tow dolly may be used) or a trailer.
- A truck towing an RV trailer may not tow any additional trailers.

You need to know:

- how to select a towing vehicle capable of towing the recreational trailer
- how to select a recreational trailer and match it to the towing vehicle
- how a fifth wheel or ball and hitch connector works and how to choose one
- how to identify the parts of a trailer hitch
- how to couple and uncouple the truck and trailer
- how to conduct a pre-trip inspection of a recreational trailer combination
- how towing a large recreational trailer affects the handling and control of your vehicle
- how to drive a recreational combination safely

Using this Guide

This guide contains the basic information you need to know to drive while towing a recreational trailer.

It is also the study guide for the tests you will be required to pass to obtain a house trailer endorsement to operate heavy recreational trailers over 4,600 kg.

While this guide focuses primarily on large fifth wheel RV trailers, it contains information helpful for towing a recreational trailer of any size or weight.

This guide is designed to be user-friendly. The **Contents** list is detailed enough for you to be able to find information easily. In each chapter, we've included **Definitions**, **Fast Facts** and **RoadSense Tips** to make the information as clear and easy-to-use as possible. You'll also find **Review Questions** at the end of the guide.