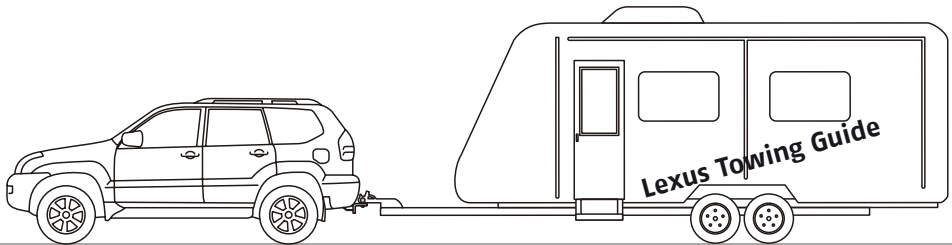




Basic Towing Guide



IMPORTANT NOTICE – Please read:

Lexus Australia has used its best endeavours to ensure this material is accurate at the time of printing. However, all information must be confirmed with your Lexus dealer at the time of ordering, as specifications and details will change over time.

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FOREWARD

Now that you have purchased a Lexus vehicle, we would like to pass on some towing tips to make your driving experience safe & enjoyable.

Lexus Australia recommends Lexus Genuine Tow bars because they're designed to suit your vehicle and are manufactured to exacting standards, giving you the best possible performance and peace of mind.

Remember that Lexus Genuine Tow bars and accessories, if installed by an authorised Lexus Dealer, are warranted for the remainder of the new vehicle warranty or 12 months, whichever is greater.

Disclaimer

This publication is intended as a general guide only and covers single or tandem type trailers or caravans, of less than 3.5 tonne, with a rigid axle being towed via a rigid drawbar using a ball type coupling. This publication is not intended for use with dog trailers or trailers of more than 3.5 tonne.

For specific details for your vehicle, refer to your vehicle's owner's manual or your Lexus dealer.

DEFINITIONS

*Gross Vehicle Mass or Weight (GVM/GVW) ** – The maximum laden weight of the vehicle; including the kerb weight of the vehicle plus driver, passengers, luggage, tow bar, bull bar, any other accessories and the tow ball down load.

*Kerb Mass or Weight ** – The weight of the vehicle including all options, fluids and full fuel tank, but not including accessories.

*Tare Mass or Weight ** – Is the same as Kerb Weight but with only 10 litres of fuel in the fuel tank instead of a full tank.

*Gross Vehicle Axle Mass or Weight ** – The maximum load on either the front or rear axle resulting from the distribution of the GVM.

*Gross Trailer Mass or Weight (GTM/GTW) ** – The maximum weight of the trailer and its load, when coupled to a towing vehicle.

*Gross Combination Mass or Weight ** – The maximum allowable mass or weight of a towing vehicle and its trailer.

*Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) ** – The maximum allowable mass or weight of the trailer specified by the manufacturer. ATM is the sum of GTM plus the tow ball download.

* Specified by the manufacturer

LOADING

Weights

Before towing confirm that the total Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), Gross Trailer Mass (GTM), trailer tow ball downloads and Gross Vehicle Axle Weights are all within the limits stated by the vehicle and trailer manufacturers.

For more information on vehicle towing information refer to page 11.

The GVM can be found either in the "Trailer Towing" section of the vehicle owner's manual or on the vehicle compliance plate.

Remember that the gross trailer mass (GTM) may affect the load carrying capacity of the vehicle.

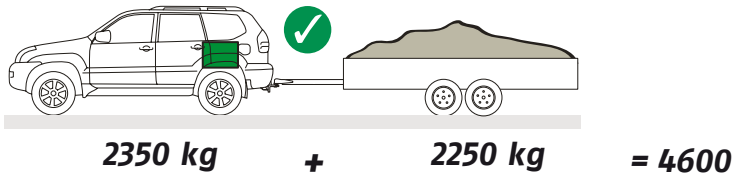
Examples of varying load conditions:

Vehicle GVM = 2740 kg

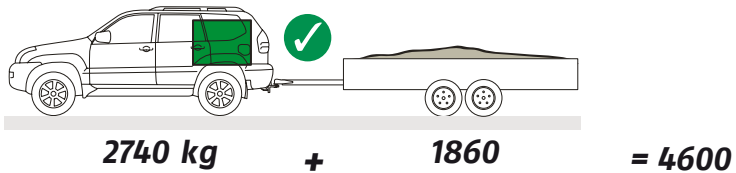
Gross Combination Mass = 4600 kg

Maximum Total Trailer Weight = 2250 kg

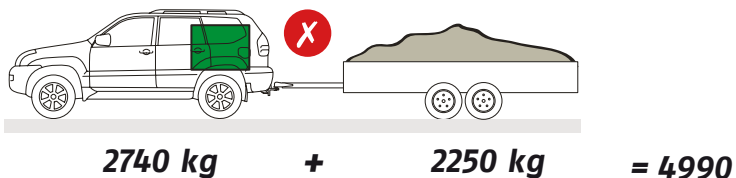
If the trailer is loaded to maximum, then $4600\text{kg} - 2250\text{kg} = 2350\text{kg}$ maximum allowable vehicle load.



If the vehicle is loaded to maximum, then: $4600\text{kg} - 2740 = 1860\text{kg}$ maximum allowable trailer load.

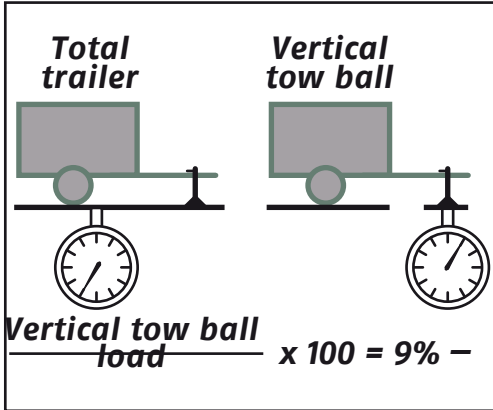


If the vehicle is loaded to maximum and the trailer is loaded to maximum, then the total weight will exceed the allowable limit.



Tow ball Downloads

Trailer cargo load should be distributed so that the tow ball download is within the specification shown in the "Trailer Towing" section of the vehicle owner's manual or tow bar ID plate and is a percentage of the total trailer weight and does not exceed the maximum load for the vehicle / tow bar design. In the following example the download is between 9% – 11% of the total trailer weight.



Trailer tow ball download weight can be determined by weighing the trailer at the coupling point. Always have the tow ball coupling at the same height as it is when coupled to the vehicle in the loaded condition.

Note: Use of a load distribution hitch does not reduce the trailer tow ball download.

If the tow ball download is less than 7% do not use an LDH.

Trailer tow ball download weight must be included as part of the tow vehicle GVM.

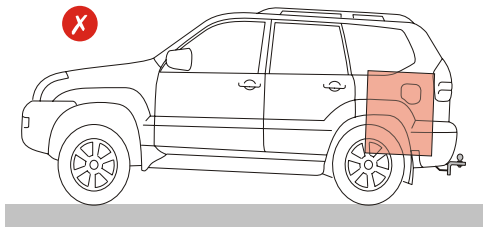
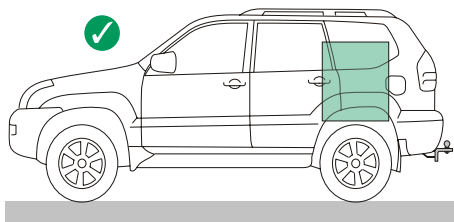
Vehicle Loading

Your vehicle is designed primarily as a passenger carrying vehicle. Towing any type of trailer will affect the vehicle's handling, performance, braking, durability and fuel consumption.

For your safety and the safety of others, do not overload the vehicle or trailer.

Confirm your vehicle's Gross Vehicle Mass or Weight (GVM), refer to the "Trailer Towing" section, of the vehicle owner's manual or a Lexus dealer for information on your vehicle's GVM.

Ensure that any load is placed as close as possible to the rear axle.

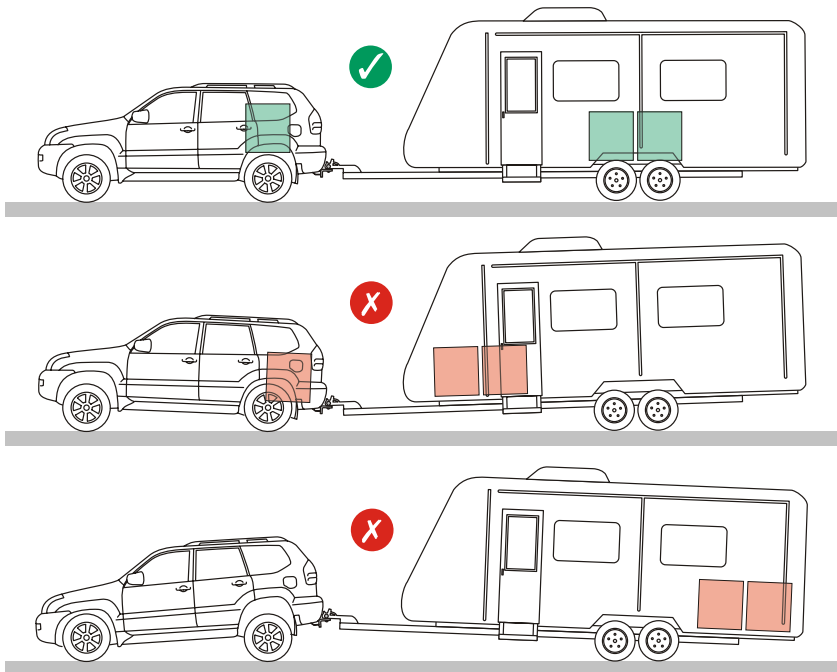


Trailer Loading

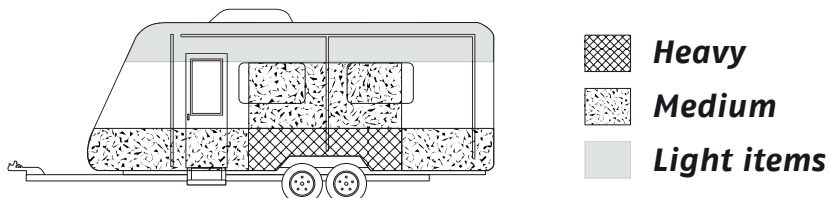
Always ensure heavy items are placed over the trailer axle/s and as low down as possible, whilst maintaining a tow ball download of between 9 - 11%.

Ensure that the trailer coupling is the same height as the vehicle coupling point. In the first instance, always distribute vehicle and trailer loads accordingly to achieve a relatively flat vehicle and trailer posture without the assistance of load levelling or load distribution devices.

Overloading a trailer will place undue stress on the components of the trailer, tow bar and tow vehicle.



Caravan Loading



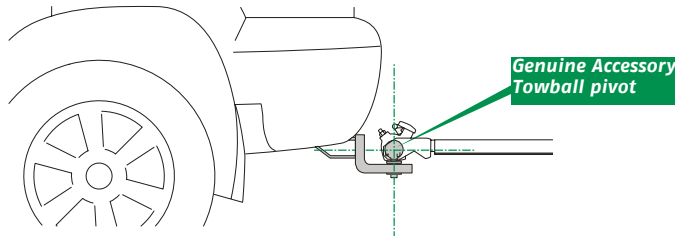
VEHICLE & TRAILER COUPLING

Hitches

Always use a tow bar coupling appropriate for the type of towing to be undertaken, most commonly a 50mm ball.

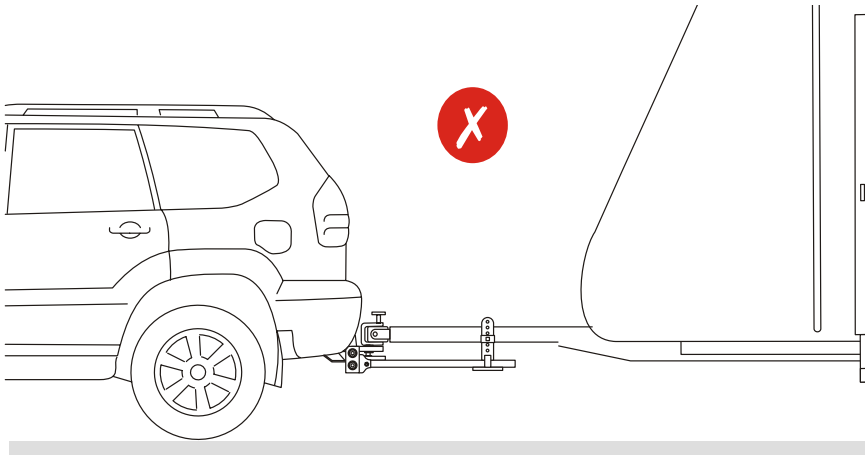
If travelling off road, use a high articulation towing coupling such as a Pintle, Hyland or Treg style, for more information refer to your Lexus dealer.

Always maintain the genuine tow bar pivot point (tow ball) position.

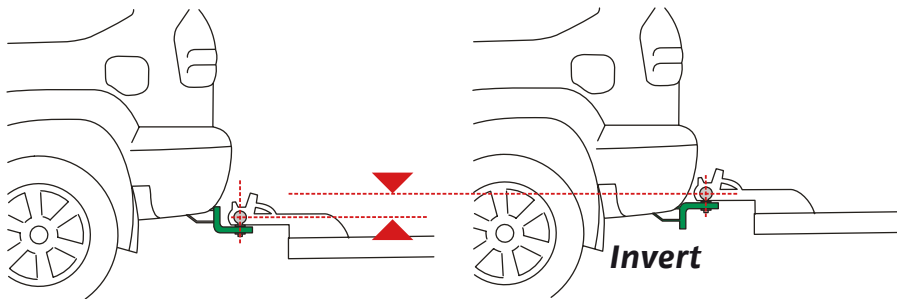


CAUTION

High articulation couplings when used with load distribution hitches (LDH's) should only be used for highway driving. Do not use for off-road driving (Refer to page 8).



The levelness of the trailer may be adjusted on some tow bars by inverting the tow ball tongue to more appropriately suit the trailer.



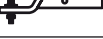




Illustration

NOTE

- Some Lexus Genuine tow bar tongues are in the inverted position as standard.
- Some Lexus Genuine tow bar tongues cannot be inverted. Tow ball position can only be changed to allowable genuine tow bar designed positions. The load rating may change with a different orientation of the tow bar tongue.

A tow bar that can be inverted will have a plaque fitted to the tow bar showing the position that it can be changed to and the load rating in the changed position.

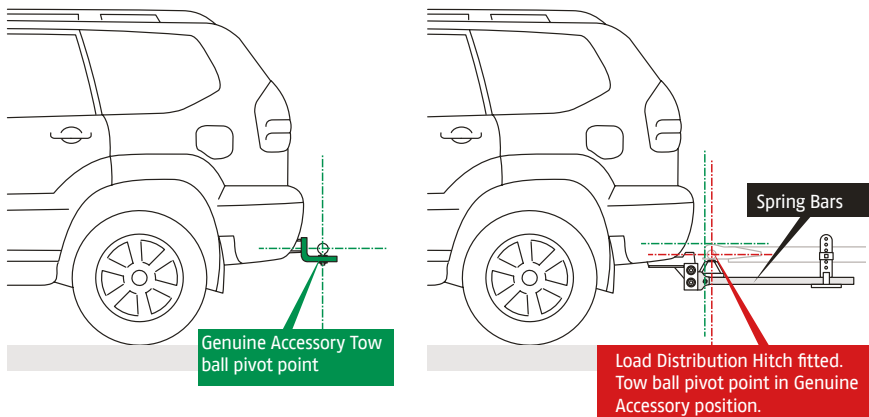
WARNING	
	
FOR TRAILER TOWING ONLY TONGUE PART No. PZQ63-60074 THIS TONGUE IS TO BE USED ONLY WITH TOWBAR PART No. PZQ64-60074	
MAX. TOWBAR CAPACITY 3500 kg	
MAX. TOWBAR DOWNLOAD 350 kg	
MAX. TOWBAR CAPACITY 3300 kg	
MAX. TOWBAR DOWNLOAD 350 kg	

Load Distribution Hitches (LDH)

Medium Duty LDH's should only be used on highway style roads as a dynamic supplementary support to a correctly loaded vehicle / trailer combination.

Lexus recommends that only a medium duty LDH is used, Not all Lexus models can accomadate an LDH; refer to your vehicle's owner's manual for LDH compatibility with your vehicle.

- Genuine tow bar tow ball position must be maintained.
- Do not use with a high articulation coupling if driving off-road.
- Do not use on vehicles with auto height adjusting suspensions.
- Trailer override brakes are not recommended with the use of LDH's.
- LDH's should never be used to compensate for incorrectly loaded vehicle & trailer combinations.
- When negotiating the following conditions, the LDH spring bars should be disconnected:
 - When driving or reversing into and out of driveways.
 - Uneven or off-road terrain.
 - Short steep gutters.
 - Access ramps.
 - Speed humps and dips.
 - Performing tight turns at slow speeds.
 - Travelling on severe undulating road surfaces.
 - Steep abrupt inclines or declines.



OPERATION of VEHICLES & TRAILERS COUPLED TOGETHER

Stability

There are many factors that will have an affect on the stability of your vehicle and or trailer/caravan.

Tyre pressures	Ensure all tyres and tyre pressures on the vehicle and trailer are to manufacturer's specifications.
Vehicle weight	Check that maximum loaded weight of the vehicle does not exceed the manufacturer's specification. Redistribute the load/weight in the vehicle and or trailer. Keeping in mind tow ball download.
Vehicle Axle Load	Ensure that the vehicle axle load is within manufactures specification. Refer to the vehicle owners manual for more information.
Trailer weight	Check that maximum loaded weight of the trailer does not exceed the manufacturer's specification; or the tow bar towing capacity.
Combined weight	Check that the combined vehicle and trailer weight does not exceed manufacturer's specification. If necessary redistribute the load/weight in the vehicle and or trailer. Keeping in mind tow ball download and tow bar capacity.
Tow ball download	Ensure tow ball download is correct. Adjust tow ball download to between 9% -11% of trailer weight to achieve the best stability.
Driving styles	Change driving styles to suit trailer towing and road condition. No fast steering inputs, hard braking, or high speeds.
Blind Spot Monitoring System	Lexus recommends the the Blind Spot Monitoring system is turned OFF when towing to prevent unnecessary activation.
Worn suspension	Check both vehicle and trailer for any worn or broken suspension components. Replace or repair accordingly.
Vehicle/trailer alignment	Check the alignment of the suspension on both vehicle & trailer. Repair or adjust accordingly.

Cross winds	Be aware of crosswinds and sudden wind gusts, reduce your speed accordingly.
Larger vehicles	Be prepared for wind buffeting and trailer movement whilst near trucks.
Correct trailer	Ensure the trailer is suited to the vehicle you are coupling to, size, width, drawbar length and wheel size.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Warranty Limitations

Operating the vehicle in an overloaded condition or outside of Lexus's recommendations may void the vehicle warranty, refer to your vehicle's Warranty & Service Book.

Towing Capacities

For vehicle towing capacities refer to the "Trailer Towing" section of the owner's manual, tow bar plaque, or your Lexus dealer.

Note:

- Ensure that your tow bar's towing capacity is capable of towing the load that you intend to applied to it.
- Vehicle weight, trailer weight and tow ball download can be measured at a public weigh bridge.

Regulations

Ensure that the trailer load distribution, axle loads, vehicle loading, trailer lights, trailer brakes and rear view mirrors comply with all Federal and State regulations.

Trailer Lights

Trailer lights must comply with federal and state regulations. See your Lexus dealer for the correct type of wiring and relays for your trailer.

Check for correct operation of the trailer lights each time you attach the trailer. Direct splicing of the light to the vehicle wiring harness may damage your vehicle's electrical system. See your Lexus dealer for more information.

Trailer Brakes

Lexus recommends that trailer brakes conform to all federal and state regulations. When your trailer exceeds a certain weight, trailer brakes are required. For information on maximum un-braked trailer weight, refer to the vehicle owner's manual or your Lexus dealer.

Sway Control Device

If the total trailer weight is greater than the vehicle weight, use a sway control device. For more information, refer to the owner's manual or your Lexus dealer.

Trailer Towing Tips

Refer to your vehicle owner's manual or your Lexus dealer for towing tips for your vehicle.

Safety Chains

Safety chains must always be used when towing any trailer. Ensure that the safety chains conform to all federal and state regulations.

Before Towing

Before you begin towing your trailer, Lexus strongly recommends that you carry out a pre-towing safety check.

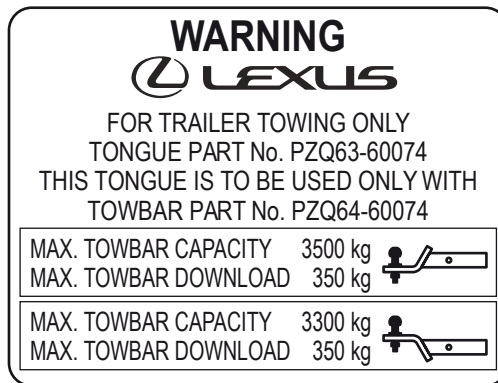
These checks include, but are not limited to:

- Correct vehicle tyre pressures
- Correct trailer tyre pressures
- Ensure the trailer lights operate correctly
- Correct installation of all towing equipment
- Ensure the tow ball is correctly tensioned
- Ensure the trailer cargo is securely loaded and tied down
- Ensure that all mirrors are installed

For more information, refer to your owner's manual or your Lexus dealer.

Tow Bar Tongue

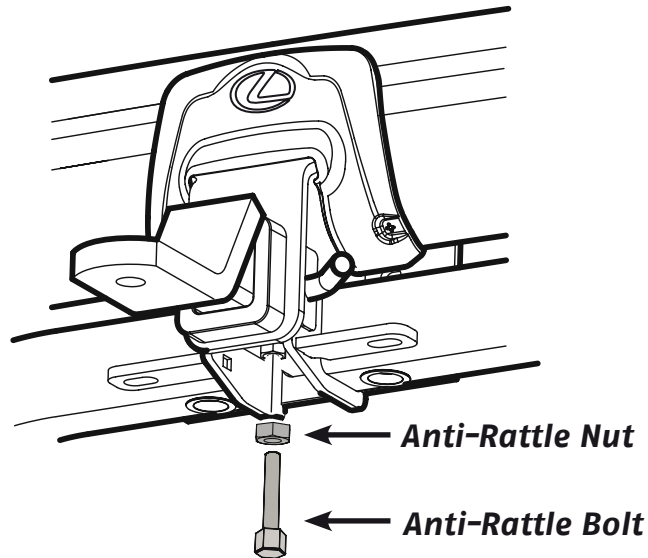
The load rating may change with a different orientation of the tow bar tongue. A tow bar that can be inverted will have a plaque fitted to the tow bar showing the position that it can be changed to and the load rating in the changed position.



Anti-Rattle Bolt

Lexus recommends the removal of the tow bar tongue when not in use. The anti-rattle bolt and nut (where fitted) is designed to prevent movement of the tow bar tongue when the tongue is unloaded.

The anti-rattle bolt, if fitted, must be removed when towing or damage to the tow bar may occur.



Tow Bar Modification

The tow bar is designed for trailer towing only. Do not modify the tow bar in any way as this may void the tow bar and vehicle warranties.

Maintenance

Towing a trailer puts an additional load on your vehicle, therefore it will require more frequent servicing. For more information refer to the "Additional Maintenance" section of your Warranty & Service Book or your Lexus dealer. Check all mounting bolts regularly. Lexus recommends checking at the time of vehicle periodic servicing.







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