



ROAD KING

"DRIVEN BY QUALITY"

TRAILERS

Weight Distribution

Warning: Fishtailing caused from improper tongue weight on the tow vehicle hitch ball can cause loss of control of the tow vehicle and result in serious injury or property damage.

Improper weight distribution can cause a boat trailer to “fishtail” (sway from side to side) as it moves down the highway, putting excessive strains on both the trailer and towing equipment, increasing gas consumption and sometimes causing an accident. The most effective way to guard against fishtailing is to make sure that the weight load on your trailer is properly distributed.

It is extremely important that 5 to 7 percent of the total weight of your loaded trailer should be felt at the trailer coupling ball when the tongue is parallel to the ground. A bathroom scale can be used for this determination. For example, if the gross weight of a trailer, boat, fuel and gear is 2,000 lbs., the weight on the tongue should not be more than 140 pounds, nor less than 100 pounds. This will hold true until you get into larger sized boats (4,000 lbs. and heavier). It may become necessary to strike a balance between sufficient tongue weight to properly tow and not too much tongue weight to create undue stress on the tow vehicle. When in doubt, consult your local dealer.

If the weight down on the coupling ball does not fall within the proper range, you should take immediate steps to achieve it. If a small adjustment is required, you may be able to solve the problem simply by shifting some of the gear in your boat (gas tank, anchor, fishing tackle) from back to front or vice versa. If this is not adequate, the undercarriage of some of our trailers can be adjusted backward or forward, as needed. The importance of adequate tongue weight on the hitch ball cannot be overemphasized.