

Pre-tow label record sheet

Record the limits for your actual vehicle, trailer and hitch. Use manufacturer labels and manuals, not a brochure maximum for a different configuration. An unknown value is **unknown**, not zero.

Trip / date: _____ Vehicle / configuration: _____

Trailer / hitch setup: _____

Limit or measured load	Value, lb	Label / manual / scale source
Trailer GVWR	_____	_____
Actual empty trailer / planned cargo	____ / ____	_____
Loaded trailer (empty + cargo)	_____	_____
Vehicle trailer-weight limit / GCWR	____ / ____	_____
Vehicle payload limit	_____	_____
People / cargo / added equipment*	_____	_____
Measured tongue or pin load	_____	_____
Actual combined vehicle + trailer**	_____	_____
Hitch trailer-weight / tongue or pin limits	____ / ____	_____
Ball mount / ball / coupler ratings	_____	_____
Measured vehicle / trailer axle loads	____ / ____	_____

*Count equipment only once; curb weight and payload labels can use different equipment assumptions.

**Do not add tongue/pin load twice. Whole-combination scale weight must include the complete vehicle and trailer, not only the trailer axles.

Before departure

- ☐ Check vehicle and trailer axle loads against their ratings; check tire ratings and pressures.
- ☐ Check actual tongue/pin load and loading balance against manufacturer guidance.
- ☐ Check load securement, brakes, breakaway system, lights and state requirements.

Stop when a required limit is missing or exceeded

Resolve missing values with the manufacturer or a qualified towing professional. A positive calculated margin is not a safety certification or proof of legal compliance. This record sheet does not replace labels, manuals, a loaded scale check or applicable law.

Use the interactive planner: trailerhunt.com/trailer-towing-capacity-planner/

Definition source: [NHTSA GVWR interpretation \(nht75-5.2\)](#). This source defines GVWR; it does not endorse this worksheet. Configuration-specific limits come from the manufacturers.

Reviewed October 6, 2026 | [Sources and corrections](#) | corrections@trailerhunt.com