

# GMC Truck – Trailer Tow Vehicle Selector Checklist

## Five Easy Steps

Every GMC truck, SUV and van is designed for trailering, with power, handling and convenience features that can be relied upon for long hauls and heavy loads. However, it is critical that the proper vehicle and equipment are selected for the specific trailering application. This worksheet will help ensure the proper selection.



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Model Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_  
2WD \_\_\_\_ 4WD \_\_\_\_ AWD \_\_\_\_  
Cab: Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Extended \_\_\_\_\_ Crew \_\_\_\_\_  
Box: Short \_\_\_\_\_ Standard \_\_\_\_\_ Long \_\_\_\_\_  
Engine \_\_\_\_\_ Axle Ratio \_\_\_\_\_  
Payload Capacity (lb.) \_\_\_\_\_ Curb (Ship) Weight \_\_\_\_\_ GVWR \_\_\_\_\_ GCWR \_\_\_\_\_  
Maximum Trailer Weight Rating \_\_\_\_\_  
Trailer Model Name \_\_\_\_\_ Boat/Vehicle Model Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Conventional or 5th Wheel Trailering \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 1: Calculate Gross Trailer Weight

Every GMC vehicle has a predetermined maximum allowable trailer weight that it can tow. Indicate the total weight (in lb.) of everything in and on the trailer, including the weight of:

- Trailer \_\_\_\_\_
- Boat, horses, vehicle \_\_\_\_\_
- Equipment, motor, gear, anchors \_\_\_\_\_
- Propane contained in tanks (4.2 lb./gal.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Fresh (faucet) water in tanks (8.4 lb./gal.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Gray (drain) water in tanks \_\_\_\_\_
- Black (toilet) water in tanks \_\_\_\_\_
- Fuel in tanks (diesel 7 lb./gal.; gas 6 lb./gal.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Food (dry, wet, frozen) \_\_\_\_\_
- Clothing \_\_\_\_\_
- Items tied or strapped to the outside (bikes, ladders) \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER [Gross Trailer Weight]** \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Trailer Weight Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Ensure that the Maximum Trailer Weight Rating is more than the Gross Trailer Weight calculated above. If not, move to a larger truck.

### Step 2: Calculate Payload

Payload capacity is the maximum allowable weight of loaded cargo, passengers and aftermarket equipment a vehicle can carry. What is the weight of everything in and on the vehicle (bed, cab, roof-mounted)? For this step, do not include the weight of the vehicle or the weight of the trailer or its contents. Include the weight of:

- Camper, tools, luggage carrier, plow, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Personal cargo \_\_\_\_\_
- Total occupant capacity (150 lb. avg./person) \_\_\_\_\_
- Conventional trailering tongue weight (10–15% of loaded trailer weight) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5th Wheel trailering tongue weight (15–25% of loaded trailer weight) \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER [Total Payload]** \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Payload Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

Ensure that the Maximum Payload Capacity is more than the Total Payload calculated above. If not, move to a larger truck.

### Step 3: Calculate Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW)

The Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) is the total weight of the fully loaded vehicle including payload – this does not include the weight of what is being towed. The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) is the maximum amount a vehicle may contain, carry and stop.

From the vehicle's invoice, determine the vehicle ship weight. Or, use the Online Order/Reference Guide, DSA or Showroom to determine the curb weight and Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR).

To determine whether the payload and vehicle weight are under the maximum allowable GVWR, complete this simple formula:

- Ship Weight from Invoice or Curb Weight from the Online Order/Reference Guide \_\_\_\_\_

Plus \_\_\_\_\_

- Payload from Step 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER [Gross Vehicle Weight]** \_\_\_\_\_

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Ensure that the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating is more than the Gross Vehicle Weight calculated above. If not, move to a larger truck.

### Step 4: Calculate Gross Combination Weight (GCW)

Gross Combination Weight (GCW) is the maximum weight of a completely loaded vehicle and completely loaded trailer. The Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) is a not-to-exceed weight specified by the manufacturer.

To determine the GCW, complete this simple formula:

- Gross Trailer Weight from Step 1 \_\_\_\_\_

PLUS

- Gross Vehicle Weight from Step 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Minus

- Tongue Weight from Step 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER [Gross Combination Weight]** \_\_\_\_\_

Gross Combination Weight Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Ensure that the Gross Combination Weight Rating is more than the Gross Combination Weight calculated above. If not, move to a larger truck.

### Step 5: Ensure Proper Towing Equipment

The vehicle that matches these calculations will pull and stop the specified trailer without any further equipment. **You still must select the appropriate trailer hitch and consider additional options.**

Standard equipment across all Sierra models:

- Automatic transmission with Tow/Haul mode
- 4-wheel ABS with dynamic rear proportioning
- 4-wheel disc antilock brakes with DURALIFE™ rotors
- Tire Pressure Monitoring System
- StabiliTrak®, a stability control system with Proactive Roll Avoidance and traction control. Also includes Trailer Sway Control and Hill Start Assist

Plus, HD models include this additional standard equipment:

- Heavy-duty engine oil cooler, heavy-duty transmission oil cooler, heavy-duty capacity air filter and air filtration monitor
- Trailering package that includes trailer hitch, 7-pin and 4-pin connectors along and Hitch Guidance with dynamic single line to aid in truck trailer alignment for hitching
- G80 Automatic Locking Rear Differential

Other popular trailering options include:

- Integrated Trailer Brake Controller
- ProGrade Trailering System
- Trailer Tire Pressure Monitor Sensors
- Outside vertical trailering mirror with heated upper-glass and lower-convex mirrors
- myGMC mobile app with trailering features, such as trailer light test, predeparture checklist and load calculator