



# TRAILER TOWING SELECTOR



Escape Platinum in Carbonized Gray Metallic. When properly equipped. Max towing varies based on cargo, vehicle configuration, accessories, and number of passengers.

## 2026 Ford Escape®

Automatic Transmission

Engine	Final Drive Ratio	GCWR (lbs.)		MAXIMUM LOADED TRAILER WEIGHT (lbs.) <sup>1</sup>
		FWD	AWD	
2.5L I4 Hybrid	2.91		5,624	1,500 <sup>2</sup>
2.5L I4 Plug-in Hybrid	2.91	5,785		1,500 <sup>2</sup>
1.5L EcoBoost® I3	3.81	5,635		2,000 <sup>3</sup>
			5,790	2,000 <sup>3</sup>
2.0L EcoBoost I4	3.47	7,440		2,000 <sup>3</sup> /3,500 <sup>4</sup>

- Notes:**
- Certain states require electric trailer brakes for trailers over a specified weight. Be sure to check state regulations for this specified weight.
  - WARNING:** Do not tow a trailer fitted with electric trailer brakes unless your vehicle is fitted with a compatible aftermarket electronic trailer brake controller. Failure to follow this instruction could result in the loss of control of your vehicle, personal injury or death. For additional information and assistance, we recommend that you contact an authorized dealer.
  - Combined weight of vehicle and trailer cannot exceed listed GCWR.
  - Do not exceed the Maximum Loaded Trailer Weight listed.
  - Escape calculated with SAE J2807® method.

### REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

For trailers over 2,000 pounds – Class II Trailer Tow Package (536)

Your New Vehicle Limited Warranty may be voided if you tow without this.<sup>5</sup>

### FRONTAL AREA LIMITATION

Frontal Area is the total area in square feet that a moving vehicle and trailer exposes to air resistance.

The maximum trailer frontal area that must be considered for a **Escape**/trailer combination is **20 sq. ft. without Class II Trailer Tow Package** and **30 sq. ft. with Class II Trailer Tow Package**. Exceeding this limitation may significantly reduce the performance of your towing vehicle.

### EMISSIONS DISCLOSURE

The 2026 Ford Escape is not certified for emissions requirements with the California Air Resources Board, and therefore is not available for purchase for customers intending to register their vehicle in states that have adopted California's certification requirements for 2026 model year, specifically California, Massachusetts, Oregon, New York, Washington, and Vermont.

### AVAILABLE TRAILER TOW PACKAGE

Equipment	Escape <sup>6</sup> (536)	LEGEND
Trailer Wiring Harness (4-Pin)	I	I = Equipment is included in the package
Hitch Receiver	I	
Auto Trans. Oil Cooler	I	S = Equipment is standard on the vehicle
Trailer Sway Control	I	
Lane Keeping Alert	S	

**Note:** Content may vary depending on model, trim and/or powertrain. See your Ford Dealer for specific content information for all vehicles that will be used for towing to help ensure easy, proper connection of trailer lights.

### FACTORY-INSTALLED TRAILER HITCH RECEIVER

Included with Class II Trailer Tow Package – Option Code 536

See Hitch Receiver Weight Capacity chart for the weight-carrying capacity of this hitch receiver. (This capacity also is shown on a label affixed to the receiver.)

### HITCH RECEIVER WEIGHT CAPACITY

The maximum weight capacities for the hitch receivers shown below may exceed the maximum loaded trailer weight for the vehicle specified. Refer to the Trailer Towing Selector chart for Maximum Loaded Trailer Weight for these vehicles.

	Weight-Carrying Max. Trailer Capacity (lbs.) <sup>7</sup>	Max. Tongue Load (lbs.)
Escape Hybrid/Plug-in Hybrid	1,500 <sup>8</sup>	150 <sup>8</sup>
Escape 2.0L	3,500 <sup>4</sup>	350 <sup>4</sup>

1. Maximum towing capabilities are for properly equipped vehicles with required equipment and a 150-lb. driver and passenger and vary based on cargo, vehicle configuration, accessories, option content and number of passengers. For additional information, see your Ford Dealer. 2. Requires Class II Trailer Tow Package (536) available on ST-Line Select, ST-Line Elite and Platinum 2.0L EcoBoost and Hybrid or Plug-in Hybrid models. 3. Escape does not offer factory-installed towing equipment for this application; only available as dealer accessory. 4. Requires Class II Trailer Tow Package (536). 5. See your Ford Dealer for limited warranty details. 6. Available with 2.0L EcoBoost I4 or 2.5L I4 Hybrid/Plug-in Hybrid (ST-Line Select, ST-Line Elite, Platinum and PHEV) only. 7. Hitch receivers do not include a hitch ball or ball mounting. You are responsible for obtaining the proper hitch ball, ball mounting, and other appropriate equipment to tow both the trailer and its cargo load. 8. When properly equipped.

The content provided on this page is not “vehicle specific” and should be considered as basic towing information.

# Basic Towing Information

Towing a trailer is demanding on your vehicle, your trailer and your personal driving skills. Follow some basic rules that will help you with your towing experience.

## Cargo And Weight Distribution

For optimum handling and braking, the load must be properly distributed

Keep center of gravity low for best handling

Cargo and load capacity limited by weight and weight distribution

Approximately 60% of the allowable cargo weight should be in the front half of the trailer and 40% in the rear (within limits of tongue load or king pin weight)

Load should be balanced from side-to-side to optimize handling and tire wear

Load must be firmly secured to prevent shifting during cornering or braking, which could result in a sudden loss of control

## Before Starting

Before setting out on a trip, practice turning, stopping and backing up your trailer in an area away from heavy traffic

Know clearance required for trailer roof

Check equipment (make a checklist)

## Backing Up

Back up slowly, with someone spotting near the rear of the trailer to guide you

Place one hand at bottom of steering wheel and move it in the direction you want the trailer to go

Make small steering inputs – slight movement of steering wheel results in much greater movement in rear of trailer

## Braking

Allow considerably more distance for stopping with trailer attached

Remember, the braking system of the tow vehicle is rated for operation at the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), not Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR)

If your tow vehicle is an F-150®, F-Series Super Duty®, Transit® or Expedition® and your trailer

has electric brakes, the optional Integrated Trailer Brake Controller (TBC) assists in smooth and effective trailer braking by powering the trailer's electric or electric-over-hydraulic brakes with proportional output based on the towing vehicle's brake pressure

If you are experiencing trailer sway and your vehicle is equipped with electric brakes and a brake controller, activate the trailer brakes with the brake controller by hand. Do not apply the tow vehicle brakes as this can result in increased sway<sup>1</sup>

## Turning

When turning, be sure to swing wide enough to allow trailer to avoid curbs and other obstructions

## Towing On Hills

Downshift the transmission to assist braking on steep downgrades and to increase power (reduce lugging) when climbing hills

With TorqShift® transmission, select tow/haul mode to automatically eliminate unwanted gear search when going uphill and help control vehicle speed when going downhill

## Parking With A Trailer

Whenever possible, vehicles with trailers should not be parked on a grade. However, if it is necessary, place wheel chocks under the trailer's wheels, following the instructions below

Apply the foot service brakes and hold

Have another person place the wheel chocks under the trailer wheels on the downgrade side

Once the chocks are in place, release brake pedal, making sure the chocks will hold the vehicle and trailer

Apply the parking brake

Shift automatic transmission into park, or manual transmission into reverse

With 4-wheel drive, make sure the transfer case is not in neutral (if applicable)

## Starting Out Parked On A Grade

Apply the foot service brake and hold

Start the engine with transmission in park (automatic) or neutral (manual)

Shift the transmission into gear and release the parking brake

Release the brake pedal and move the vehicle uphill to free the chocks

Apply the brake pedal while another person retrieves the chocks

## Acceleration And Passing

The added weight of the trailer can dramatically decrease the acceleration of the towing vehicle – exercise caution

When passing a slower vehicle, be sure to allow extra distance. Remember, the added length of the trailer must clear the other vehicle before you can pull back in

Signal and make your pass on level terrain with plenty of clearance

If necessary, downshift for improved acceleration

## Driving With An Automatic Overdrive Transmission

With certain automatic overdrive transmissions, towing – especially in hilly areas – may cause excessive shifting between overdrive and the next lower gear

To eliminate this condition and achieve steadier performance, overdrive can be locked out (see vehicle Owner's Manual)

If excessive shifting does not occur, use overdrive to help enhance performance

Overdrive may also be locked out to obtain engine braking on downgrades

When available, select tow/haul mode to automatically eliminate unwanted gear search and help control vehicle speed when going downhill

## Driving With Cruise Control<sup>2</sup>

Turn off the cruise control with heavy loads or in hilly terrain. The cruise control may turn off automatically when you are towing on long, steep grades. Use caution while driving on wet roads and avoid using cruise control in rainy or winter weather conditions

## Tire Pressure

Underinflated tires get hot and may fail, leading to possible loss of vehicle control

Overinflated tires may wear unevenly and compromise traction and stopping capability

Tires should be checked often for conformance to recommended cold inflation pressures

## Spare Tire Use

A conventional, identical full-size spare tire is required for trailer towing (mini, compact and dissimilar full-size spare tires should not be used; always replace the spare tire with a new road tire as soon as possible)

## On The Road

After about 50 miles, stop in a protected location and double-check:

Trailer hitch attachment

Lights and electrical connections

Trailer wheel lug nuts for tightness

Engine oil – check regularly throughout your trip

## High Altitude Operation

Your vehicle may have reduced performance when operating at high altitudes and when heavily loaded or towing a trailer. While driving at elevation, in order to match driving performance as perceived at sea level, reduce Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) and Gross Combination Weight (GCW) by 2% per 1,000 ft. elevation

## Powertrain/Frontal Area Considerations

The charts in this Guide show the minimum powertrain needed to achieve an acceptable towing performance for the listed GCW of tow vehicle and trailer

Under certain conditions, however, (e.g., when the trailer has a large frontal area that adds substantial air drag or when trailering in hilly or mountainous terrain) it is wise to choose a vehicle with a higher rating. Towing performance is maximized with a low-drag, rounded front design trailer

## Selecting A Trim Series

Your specific vehicle's tow capability could be reduced based on weight of selected trim series and option content

**Note:** For additional trailering information pertaining to your vehicle, refer to the vehicle Owner's Manual.

<sup>1</sup> Driver-assist features are supplemental and do not replace the driver's attention, judgment and need to control the vehicle. Remember that even advanced technology cannot overcome the laws of physics. It's always possible to lose control of a vehicle due to inappropriate driver input for the conditions. <sup>2</sup> Driver-assist features are supplemental and do not replace the driver's attention, judgment and need to control the vehicle. They do not make your vehicle autonomous or replace your responsibility to drive safely. Please only use if you will pay attention to the road and be prepared to take over at any time. See Owner's Manual for details and limitations.

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