

## ESSENTIAL TOWING CHECKS



**Do not loop the breakaway cable over the tow ball as it may slide off.**



**Do not exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW), maximum rear axle weight, maximum trailer weight, or nose weight. Exceeding any of these limits could cause instability and loss of control.**

- When calculating the laden weight of the trailer, remember to include the weight of the trailer, plus the weight of the load.
  - If the load can be divided between the vehicle and trailer, loading more weight into the vehicle will generally improve stability. Do not exceed the vehicle's weight limits.
  - For maximum stability ensure that loads are properly secured and unable to shift position during transit. Also, position loads so that most of the weight is placed close to the floor and, where possible, immediately above or close to the trailer axle(s).
  - To maintain vehicle stability, it is essential that a twin-axle trailer is loaded so that it remains parallel to the ground.
  - Increase rear tyre pressures of the towing vehicle to those for maximum GVW conditions. See **215, WHEEL AND TYRE SIZES**
  - Ensure trailer tyre pressures are set to trailer manufacturer's recommendations.
  - If the vehicle is loaded to the maximum GVW, tow ball nose weight is limited to 150 kg (331 lb). See **213, WEIGHTS**.
- If a greater tow ball nose weight is required, the weight can be increased by up to an extra 100 kg (220 lb) but the vehicle load must be reduced by the same amount. This ensures that the GVW and maximum rear axle load are not exceeded and also allows for a maximum tow ball nose weight of 250 kg (550 lb).
  - Make sure that a suitable breakaway cable and/or safety chains are used. Refer to the trailer manufacturer's instructions for guidance.
  - Make sure that the tow ball is secure.
  - Check the operation of all trailer lights.
  - Nose weight must be a minimum of 4% of gross caravan/trailer weight.

Hitch height must be set with the engine running, so that the caravan/trailer is level when connected to the vehicle.

**Note:** *All doors must remain closed when hitching a trailer.*