

FAQs on Calculating the Towing Capacity of a Vehicle

RSA

How do I calculate the towing capacity of my vehicle? You subtract Figure 1 (DGWV) from Figure 2 (DGCW) (in this case, 2,930 kg - 1,820 kg = 1,110 kg) to find the towing capacity as shown on vehicle manufacturer's plate located inside passenger door or under bonnet as shown in the image below.

Check its plate

	e13*2001/116*0144
6	
L	*WPOFXDWPDP9P88888*
W	FIGURE 1 1820 kg
LW	FIGURE 2 2930 kg
KN	925 kg
36	1005 kg
7	
	DA3



FIGURE 2 minus FIGURE 1 = Towing Capacity

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How do I find a vehicle's towing capacity i.e. what it can tow? You can refer to your owner's manual or contact the original manufacturer or authorised distributor. Note that each vehicle is different and its overall gross towing capacity will depend on whether the trailer being towed is braked or unbraked. These are the **maximum** weights your vehicle can tow. If you exceed this you are breaking the law.

Where do I find the braked and unbraked towing capacity of a vehicle? Refer to owner's manual or contact original manufacturer or authorised distributor or it can be calculated from the vehicle's plate as shown in image above.

What is towing capacity? Towing capacity or towable mass is the maximum weight a vehicle can tow in accordance with the manufacturer's design specifications.

What is DGVW? Design Gross Vehicle Weight is the weight of a vehicle including the maximum load the vehicle itself can carry according to manufacturer's specifications.

What is DGCW? Design Gross Combination Weight is the maximum combined weight allowed for your vehicle and trailer according to the towing vehicle's manufacturers specifications.

Where do I find the DGVW of a trailer?

- You will find this weight on the statutory plate fixed to your trailer or by contacting trailer manufacturer or authorised distributor.
- See our booklet on Drawing Light Trailers [here](#) and our FAQs on Light Trailers [here](#).

What is unladen weight? This is the weight of the drawing vehicle or trailer when *not* carrying a load.

Where do I find unladen weight of a trailer? Contact the original manufacturer or take it to a weighbridge at your [local authority](#).

Can I tow a trailer that is heavier than my vehicle's towing capacity even if the trailer is unloaded? We recommend that the DGVW of a trailer as specified by the manufacturer and displayed on the plate does not exceed the towing capacity of your vehicle.