

Centre for Road Safety

Everything you pack weighs something


Once you have determined how much you can pack, or your payload, you need to weigh everything you load into your caravan. This includes water, gas, crockery, mattresses, TV, clothes, food and drink – everything that is additional to the tare mass of your caravan, plus everything you have packed.

It is both unsafe and illegal to overload your caravan, so it is important to know exactly how much you can pack and make sure that you do not exceed any of the four carrying capacity criteria.

You must also consider the extra weight you may accumulate while travelling, such as your grey water tank, cassette toilet waste and other items you have picked up along the way. Make sure you leave enough space so your caravan does not become overweight during the trip.

Don't overload your caravan

This table shows example weights of various items that may be part of a caravan's payload along with the caravan's tare and maximum carrying capacity to demonstrate how to measure the safe carrying capacity.

What can you pack ?	
<p>Maximum carrying capacity: 2500kg</p> <p>Caravan TARE: 2100kg</p>  <p>Total tow capacity: 2500kg</p> <p>Caravan tare: 2100kg</p> <p>Maximum pack weight: 400kg</p> <p>What you pack, or your payload, must not exceed the lowest tow capacity of your towbar, towing vehicle, tyre capacity or caravan ATM</p>	<p>Awning = 30kg Air conditioner = 35kg Caravan TV = 7kg Spare tyre = 25kg 2 x mattresses = 45kg Gas bottle = 25kg 100L water = 100kg</p> <p>= 267kg</p> <p>Luggage = 30kg Cutlery = 3kg Crockery = 10kg Pots and pans = 11kg Barbeque = 25kg Groceries = 35kg Cleaning supplies = 7kg Broom = 2kg 2 x sheets = 5kg 2 x pillows = 2kg 2 x blankets = 6kg 2x bicycles = 30kg Outdoor seating = 15kg Outdoor table = 10kg</p> <p>= 191kg</p> <p>Total = 458kg (58kg overweight)</p>

Sensible loading

Make sure that the heaviest items are packed low and centred over the caravan's wheel axles and the lightest items are packed up high and distributed across the vehicle. This will help to reduce the occurrence of 'snaking' or 'swaying' of your caravan when driving.

How to distribute loading weight

