

**WELCOME  
TO THE  
WORLD OF  
TOWLITE**

**Owner Care and Instruction Manual**

**2001 Models**

# TowLite

## TOWLITE, INC. LIMITED WARRANTY

TowLite, Inc., hereinafter called TowLite, 500 S. Main St. Bellville, Oh. 44813 issues the following Limited Warranty, subject to the limitations and conditions hereinafter provided:

TowLite, Inc. WARRANTS THE TRAILER TO WHICH THIS WARRANTY APPLIES:

A. To be merchantable and fit for the ordinary purposes for which such trailers are ordinarily used and  
B. TowLite or its dealer will repair or replace, at TowLite's option, any part which has never been subject to another warranty which is found to be defective. (Note: The component parts of the trailer which are manufactured by others such as tires, running gear, battery, power converter, plumbing and electrical fixtures, compressors, pumps, air conditioners, furnaces, stereos, appliances and bedding are covered by the separate warranty. If any, and service policy of the manufacturer of such components. THESE PARTS ARE NOT COVERED BY THE TOWLITE, INC. LIMITED WARRANTY. Service on these components will be covered by such manufacturer's warranty, and service policy as delivered to the consumer-user at the time of the original purchase of the trailer. THESE COMPONENT PARTS ARE NOT COVERED IN ANY EXTENDED WARRANTY MADE AVAILABLE BY THE COMPANY.

THE WARRANTIES EXPRESSED IN A AND B, ABOVE ARE IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED.

The said warranties contained in A and B above are subject to the following conditions and limitations:

1. All TowLite warranties, express or implied, shall expire TWELVE (12) MONTHS from the date of Purchase by the consumer user proof of purchase date will be required with all warranty claims. (Note: Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you).
2. The TowLite Trailer must have been used, operated and maintained in accordance with the printed instructions provided to the original consumer-user in the Care and Use Manual.
3. The warranties A and B above are limited to and extended only to the first purchasing consumer-user.
4. These warranties, A and B above, shall not extend to any trailer or part thereof that has been subjected to abuse, misuse, alteration, accident or use or operation contrary to the Care and Use Manual.
5. These warranties, A and B above, shall not extend to a trailer or any part thereof that has been loaned, leased, rented, or used commercially.
6. These warranties, A and B above, shall not extend to a trailer which is not properly matched to a tow vehicle as per the tow vehicle manufacturer's specified limitations.
7. These warranties, A and B above, do not apply to damages to the trailer caused by road hazards nor to damages caused by off road towing or towing on unpaved roadways.
8. The warranties, A and B above, shall not extend to labor costs or repair costs other than costs or parts found to be defective. Except where required by applicable law, TOWLITE SHALL IN NO EVENT BE LIABLE FOR SPECIAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES. TowLite does not assume responsibility for loss of use of the trailer, loss of time, inconvenience, expense of gasoline, towing, telephone, travel, lodging, loss or damage to personal property or loss of revenues: TowLite does not undertake responsibility to any purchaser of its product for any undertaking, representation or warranty made by dealers or representatives selling its product beyond those representations or warranties herein expressed. (Note: Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you. TowLite, Inc. may make changes in design and improvements in subsequent vehicles and models without including any obligations to make such changes or improvements to units previously manufactured.

### WARRANTY PROCEDURES

To obtain warranty repairs, the trailer should be taken to the authorized franchised dealer who sold you the TowLite. This warranty work is to be rendered in accordance with the dealer's franchise service agreement.

A. Defects in the warranted trailer must be reported within 30 days of discovery to the franchised TowLite dealer who sold you the trailer. (It is recommended they be reported immediately).

If the franchise dealer from whom the trailer was purchased is not available contact TowLite, Inc., 25 Walnut St., Lexington, Ohio 44904. (Telephone: 1-800-321-6402) for instructions as to the nearest franchise dealer for repairs or other arrangements.

All warranty work shall be performed by an authorized franchise dealer during the time specified in the public day and hours of such dealer. Within reasonable limits, preference will be given to warranty work in accordance with the dealer's franchise agreement.

The procedures herein outlined and the remedies hereinabove outlined, shall be exclusive remedy for any alleged defect or breach of any warranty.

Note: THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY ALSO HAVE OTHER RIGHTS WHICH MAY VARY FROM STATE TO STATE. TOWLITE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE ANY PERSON TO CREATE FOR IT ANY OTHER OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THESE TRAILERS.

TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE APPLICABLE TO THESE VEHICLES IS LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THESE WRITTEN WARRANTIES. NEITHER TOWLITE, INC. NOR THE SELLING DEALER SHALL BE LIABLE FOR LOSS OF TIME, INCONVENIENCE, COMMERCIAL LOSS OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty will last or the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above may not apply to you).

## INTRODUCTION

TowLite, Inc. designs its telescoping travel trailer to fit the needs of the traveler. Our aerodynamically efficient low travel profile provides safety, towability, and up to 77% savings in fuel consumption, while our well-planned interiors provide all the roominess, beauty and comforts of home.

It is important that you read this owners manual carefully. This manual is designed to provide you operating instructions, maintenance information, and use tips that make your travel and camping care-free and trouble-free. We also recommend you keep this manual at hand during your trips for easy reference.

TOWLITE, INC. prides itself in the quality of each trailer's construction and excellent workmanship. Your dealer will fill out a certified customer care registration form and mail it to TowLite, Inc. where it is kept on file.

All the employees at TowLite, Inc. thank you for choosing TowLite as your recreational vehicle.

Some items described in this manual may be optional equipment or available only on certain models. Certain items may have been changed or substituted due to supplier availability.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Before You Leave Your Dealer</b>	
1.1 Check off list.....	5
<b>2. Preparing For Travel</b>	
2.1 Hitching up.....	6
2.2 Load capacity.....	6
2.3 Weight distribution.....	6-7
2.4 Packing and inspecting trailer.....	7
2.5 Vehicle inspection.....	7
2.6 Holding tanks.....	7
<b>3. Travel</b>	
3.1 Towing speed.....	8
3.2 Towing stability.....	8
3.3 Passing.....	9
3.4 Stopping.....	9
3.5 Backing up.....	9
3.6 Mirrors.....	9
3.7 Towing with diesel powered vehicle.....	9
3.8 Selecting proper tow vehicle.....	9
<b>4. Parking and Set-up</b>	
4.1 Selecting campsite.....	10
4.2 Leveling trailer.....	10
4.3 Raising your TowLite.....	10-11
4.4 Utility hook ups.....	11-12
4.5 Awnings and windows.....	12
4.6 Preparing to leave camp and lowering your TowLite.....	12
<b>5. LP-Gas System</b>	
5.1 General information.....	13
5.2 Checking for leaks.....	13
5.3 LP-Gas regulator setting.....	13
5.4 Using automatic change over regulator (optional).....	13-14
5.5 Gas containers - using alcohol.....	14
5.6 Filling LP-Gas containers.....	14
5.7 LP-Gas consumption.....	15
5.8 Safety in using LP-Gas /LP Gas Detector.....	15
<b>6. Electrical System</b>	
6.1 General information.....	16
6.2 110/125 volt AC circuit.....	16
6.3 Ground fault interrupter.....	16
6.4 12 volt DC circuit.....	16
6.5 115 to 12 volt DC converter.....	17
6.6 DC distribution panel 112 volt fuses.....	17
6.7 Automatic-reset thermal breaker.....	17
6.8 12 volt to electric/hydraulic power lifting unit.....	18
6.9 Electric brakes.....	18
6.10 Breakaway.....	18
6.11 7-wire plug (trailer end).....	18
6.12 Schematics of the electrical system.....	18
6.13 Understanding use of power cord including air condition circuit cord.....	18
<b>7. Hydraulic Lifting System</b>	
7.1 Electric/hydraulic power lifting unit.....	20
7.2 Electric motor.....	20
7.3 Raising solenoid.....	20
7.4 Hydraulic pump.....	20
7.5 Lowering solenoid.....	21
7.6 Safety Bar.....	21
7.7 Hydraulic cylinder.....	21
7.8 Cable lifting assembly.....	21
7.9 Trouble shooting TowLite lift mechanism.....	21-22

7.10 Servicing hydraulic lifting system.....	23-24
<b>8. Plumbing</b>	
8.1 Fresh water tank.....	25
8.2 External water supply.....	25
8.3 Filling fresh water supply.....	25
8.4 Sanitizing potable water.....	26
8.5 Winterizing water system.....	26
8.6 Waste water system.....	26
8.7 Toilet.....	26
8.9 Waste water draining.....	27
8.10 Deodorizing waste tanks.....	27
8.11 Winterizing waste water system.....	27
8.12 Faucet Maintenance.....	27-28-29
<b>9. Interior. Furnishings</b>	
9.1 Swing away bunk.....	30
<b>10. Appliance Operation and Care</b>	
10.1 3-way electric refrigerator.....	31
10.2 Range.....	31
10.3 Automatic gas hot water heater.....	31
10.4 Furnace.....	31
<b>11. Maintenance</b>	
11.1 Electric brakes.....	32
11.2 Wheel bearing lubrication.....	32
11.3 Tire inspection.....	32
11.4 Exterior care.....	32
11.5 Interior care.....	32-33
11.6 Hitch inspection and lubrication.....	33
11.7 Battery care.....	33
11.8 Hydraulic cylinder.....	33
11.9 Periodic maintenance check list.....	33
<b>12. Important Safety Considerations</b>	
12.1 Additional safety considerations.....	34-35
12.2 Emergency stopping safety.....	35
12.3 Reporting safety defects.....	35
 TowLite Dealers.....	 36
 TowLite, Inc. warranty.....	 37

### 2.3 Weight Distribution (continued)

make certain the load on the axle does not exceed its GVWR. If weight ratings are exceeded, move or remove items to bring all weights below the ratings.

#### Weight of optional equipment

Swing away bed - 80 lbs.

Roof air conditioner - 105 lbs.

### 2.4 Packing and Inspecting Trailer

Part of the fun of trailer travel and camping is the ability to take along recreational equipment such as a boat, motor, fishing gear, and sports equipment. Comfort items such as awnings, folding tables, and chairs add to your camping pleasure. And, you will certainly want to include some of the food stuffs from your own kitchen. Also, be sure to fill your water tank.

Although your TowLite trailer is sturdily built with margins of safety, too much extra weight can damage the under carriage and cause excessive tire wear. Check label GW on left front corner for maximum Gross Vehicle Weight.

Your TowLite trailer is designed and balanced for easier and safer towing so that just the right tongue weight rests on the car hitch. In packing extra equipment, it is important to maintain that balance as near as possible fore and aft. It is also recommended that the heaviest item to be positioned as near as possible to directly over the wheels.

In stowing loose equipment, pack it in such a way as to avoid shifting during acceleration or braking. Pad heavy and sharp items to avoid damaging interiors and equipment. A little extra care and few minutes spent in getting your trailer ready for travel assures a pleasant trip.

### 2.5 Vehicle Inspection

Your vehicle should be in good running order. Also tires, lights, and brakes should be checked before travel.

2.6 Be sure waste holding tanks are empty. (see 8.9)

## TowLite Weight Specifications

	170RK	190TD	220TL	220TD	240TL	240TD	260TFB
HITCH WEIGHT	275	425	405	405	380	380	550
AXLE WEIGHT	2465	2715	2865	2865	3268	3268	3490
UVW (Unloaded Vehicle Weight)	2740	3140	3273	3273	3648	3648	4040
NCC (Carrying Capacity)	1100	1160	1227	1227	1352	1352	1460
GVWR GVWR Equals UVWR plus NCC	3840	4300	4500	4500	5000	5000	5500

The above weights are approximate weights of standard models. Add for the following optional weights if applicable:

**GVWR** (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) means the maximum permissible weight of this trailer. The GVWR is equal to or greater than the sum of the Unloaded Vehicle Weight plus the Net Carrying Capacity.

**UVW** (Dry or Unloaded Vehicle Weight) means the weight of this trailer as built at the factory. If applicable, it includes full generator fuel, engine oil, and coolants. The UVW does not include cargo, fresh water, LP gas, or dealer installed accessories.

**NCC** (Net Carrying Capacity) means the maximum weight of all personal belongings, food, fresh water, LP gas, tools, dealer installed accessories, etc., that can be carried by this trailer. NCC is equal to or less than GVWR minus UVW).

## 3. TRAVEL

### 3.1 Towing Speed

Probably the greatest factor in safe, pleasant towing is maintaining reasonable vehicle speed. Lowering of speed increases trailer towing stability and reduces emergency stopping distances. If you are new to travel trailering, reduce your driving speed while towing. As you gain experience, you will be able to determine the maximum safe driving speeds for all towing conditions. Slower speeds will also decrease fuel consumption.

### 3.2 Towing Stability

The three main principal factors affecting trailer towing stability are traveling speed, wind conditions, and weight distribution. Poor trailer towing stability can be recognized by the trailer having the tendency to sway from side to side after quick course changes, while being passed by large trucks or buses, or in cross winds.

If the trailer begins to sway strongly from side to side, make as little steering corrections as possible. Using the hand lever on the brake controller, firmly apply the trailer brakes to pull the trailer straight behind the tow vehicle, and reduce speed. (Note: Electronic and brake pedal mounted controls may not allow for independent operation.) Do not attempt to stop the trailer swaying by making quick steering changes or by forcefully applying the tow vehicle brakes.

Since cargo weight in the rear of the trailer can reduce towing stability, avoid storing heavy objects in the rear of the trailer or on the rear bumper. Empty waste holding tanks before traveling whenever possible.

Equalizing hitches improves towing stability and should be used on all TowLite trailer models. In addition, sway control devices are offered by most hitch manufacturers that will help reduce swaying, and will improve trailer handling during emergencies or in crosswinds. Be sure to follow the hitch and sway control manufacturer's instructions. Correct use of these devices will increase stability, but should not be considered a substitute for prudent speed, proper cargo loading, safe weather conditions, and towing experience.

Small but sudden course changes can occur when a vehicle towing a travel trailer is passed from the rear by a large flatfronted vehicle such as a truck or bus. These course changes happen when the side wind from the flat front blows against the side of the trailer. As the truck front passes the rear of the trailer, the tow vehicle will tend to turn away from the truck, and as the truck front passes trailer wheels, the tow vehicle will turn back toward the truck.

If a large flat-fronted vehicle passes from behind causing your vehicle to change course, make as little steering correction as possible, remembering that the tow vehicle will be turned back toward its original course as soon as the truck front passes the trailer wheels. Avoid quick steering corrections that can inadvertently magnify these course changes and start trailer swaying.

### **3.3 Passing**

When passing another vehicle, remember that your tow vehicle will accelerate more slowly than usual because of the added weight of the trailer. Allow ample passing time and distance. Once past the other vehicle, allow for clearance of the trailer before returning to the original lane. Use your outside rear view mirrors and proper turn signals to assure safe maneuvering.

### **3.4 Stopping**

The increased weight of the car-trailer combination requires greater stopping distances. Maintain at least twice the normal stopping distance while towing your trailer.

### **3.5 Backing Up**

Here is an easy way for new trailerists to remember the way to turn the steering wheel when backing a trailer. Place your hand at the bottom of the steering wheel. To turn the trailer to the left, move your hand to the left (turn steering wheel clockwise). To turn the trailer to the right, move your hand to the right (turn the steering wheel counter clockwise). Your car should go the opposite way that you want the trailer to turn. In time, and with a little practice, backing will be accomplished with little effort. Always be aware that you have poor visibility to the rear. Someone standing outside at the rear of the trailer guiding your actions will assure safe backing.

### **3.6 Mirrors**

There are many types of outside mirrors that can be used on your tow vehicle. Some may prefer a non-permanent installation that can be removed between trips. Most states require mirrors extending on both the right and left sides of the towing vehicle to provide the driver a clear view when passing or being passed.

Install mirrors as close to the driver as possible to provide the maximum field of view.

Check for specific requirements in the states where you will travel.

### **3.7 Towing With Diesel Powered Vehicle**

Improper maintenance and driving at low RPM under load conditions can cause excessive diesel smoke which could enter the trailer while traveling.

It is necessary to use extension pipes to divert diesel exhaust into the air flow.

### **3.8 Selecting Proper Tow Vehicle**

Engine sizes, axle ratios and gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) are important criteria when choosing a tow vehicle. To make your selection of the proper tow vehicle consult your tow vehicle dealer. They should also be able to tell you what information you need on your present vehicle.

### **3.9 Hitch Ball Height**

This measurement should be the height of the trailer coupler (top of ball socket) to the ground when trailer is level.

## 4. PARKING & SETUP

### 4.1 Selecting Campsite

Many commercial parks and campsites are available for the modern traveler and camper. It is recommended for reasons of convenience and security that you take advantage of these facilities when parking. However, in case no facilities are available, school, church parking, motel or other parking lots are sometimes used with consent of the caretakers. In such event it is wise to notify local police of your location.

### 4.2 Leveling Trailer

Once the site is selected several factors need be considered as the site is approached. Location of utility outlets if any and the levelness of the parking area will determine your position. If it is a pull thru site, it is best to approach from the 'high' end and stop to a point where electric, water and sewer connections can be made. Once this position is reached level your wheels from side to side. Small pieces of planking and boards may be carried for this purpose. Once leveled from side to side, block wheels to stop trailer from rolling, then adjust leveling jack on your trailer hitch to level front to back. Having parked with hitch on low end allows you to easily disconnect tow vehicle or leave attached as you so desire. It is especially important that your trailer be level for most efficient operation of your refrigerator.

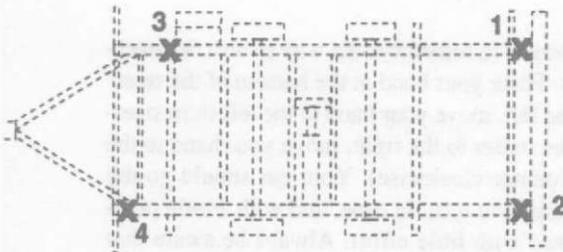


Figure 1

To provide a good solid base for trailer stability, it is recommended that you use four leveling jacks with your TowLite trailer. Position these jacks according to the diagram in Figure 1 as follows unless your TowLite is already equipped with stabilizer jacks.

1. Under main frame between spring hanger and rear bumper on doorside.
2. Under main frame between spring hanger and rear bumper on roadside.
3. Under the cross frame member at the front of the side door on front door models (rear door models reverse steps (1) and (3) (locate jack at door area in a position that will not hinder door operation).
4. Under the cross frame member at the left front of the trailer.

Adjust these jacks up to a point where they make a tight fit between the frame and the ground. While you may use them to make minor adjustments, do not raise them to the point where they take the weight off the wheels.

### 4.3 Raising Your TowLite

With Your TowLite positioned on your campsite and leveled, you are ready to raise it from the low traveling profile to the normal living position.

1. Open top door and fasten to door holder.
2. Hold bottom door at an angle of 90 degrees, so it will NOT interfere with top door while raising.
3. Lift the telescoping switch and hold in this position until the trailers top section has reached its full height at which time you should hear a 'squeal' and the safety lock engages automatically. To make sure safety bar is locked depress switch to down position, if the top section does not lower this indicates that safety bar is in locked position. Once you have ascertained that the safety bar is locked, lift telescoping switch to pressurize hydraulic cylinder. If the safety bar does not lock refer to section (7.9.3).

### 4.3.3 (continued)

Your trailer now is ready for entry and connecting up your utilities, electric, water and sewer when available. Turn on LP gas valve at tank. Before lighting water heater be sure water system and water heater tank are filled with water. Also light oven pilot if so equipped (See section 10.2). The refrigerator may be switched to 110v electric or LP gas. Note: Instruction booklets are enclosed for further details on hot water heater, refrigerator, furnace and other components included in your trailer. To get the most from your trailer it is best to read and study each manual.

### 4.4 Outside Utility Hook Ups

**1. Electric Supply** - The 110v supply cord is located in a compartment on the lower road side of the trailer. Your trailer is equipped with a 25' heavy duty power cord designed to carry 110-125v AC, 60 hz, 30 amp electric service. Pull out cord and take one complete wrap around electric supply post, then up to receptacle. Be sure power source is 110-125 volt with standard 3 wire connector, positive, neutral and ground. (See section 6.13).

**2. Sewer Hook up** - Remove sewer hose from capped bumper storage tube. Place container under capped drain outlet located under left side of trailer to catch any water in the drain, then remove protective cap by turning counter clockwise. Connect sewer hose to terminal fitting. Place opposite end of the sewer hose into a ground sewer or dump station inlet.

The use of a tapered collar or adapter, available from your dealer or trailer supply stores, to put around hose before placing it into the sewer outlet, is recommended. This will help prevent the escape of unpleasant odors about your campsite. Arrange hose so it slopes as evenly as possible from terminal to outlet. Always ensure that tank is emptied into an acceptable sewer outlet or dump station.

### 3. Draining Holding Tanks.

All TowLite trailers have dual holding tanks, one for sewage and the other grey water. To dump sewage open the large knife valve by unlocking valve and sliding valve open with a quick steady pull. After completely drained, rinse and flush tank. When tank is empty close and relock valve. If trailer is equipped with grey water holding tank, repeat same procedure using the smaller of the two knife valves. If staying at campsite keep hose connected and both knife valves closed, draining and flushing periodically as needed. **Towing your trailer with the holding tanks full is not recommended.**

### 4. Fresh Water Connection

**Caution** - Check supply pressures before connecting - your system is tested at 100 lbs. psi. Pressures above this should be controlled by an in line regulator.

Connection for city water supply is located on lower left front portion of the trailer and marked 'water city connection.' Connection should be made by water hose directly from the supply hydrant to the trailer connection. Note: It is important to use the proper type of hose for this purpose as some will give an offensive taste and odor to your water supply. Flush hose before connecting to trailer. Once connection is made the water pressure may be turned on and different spigots within trailer opened slightly to release trapped air.

