



“MY TRUCK PULLS IT
JUST FINE”

By Dave Gray, Guest Contributor

“The reality is, almost any size vehicle, with an adapted towing apparatus connecting to a large and heavy object on wheels, will be able to tow it.”

Photo courtesy of RVIA.org.

“I have no problem pulling my 41-foot fifth-wheel with my three-quarter ton diesel.” Statements similar to this quote occur every day on various social media forums. Unfortunately, these statements are not helpful and could lead someone to purchase a trailer much too big for their tow vehicle. I know this firsthand because I learned this costly lesson in 2009.

For individuals sharing those statements, there is no doubt that their three-quarter-ton truck can tow a large trailer like that “just fine” or with “no problem.” Although the truck may appear to be towing it with no problem, only time will tell if that remains true. I certainly didn’t have any problem towing my new Heartland Cyclone with my new 2008 three-quarter-ton Ram truck.

When it comes to comparing the engine and transmission between most three-quarter-ton and one-ton diesel

trucks, there’s little to no difference. The common differences are most likely the axles, springs, tires, rims and gear ratio. Sometimes, the brakes could be different, but that appears to be a rare occurrence.

Occasionally, on various social media forums, someone will ask if their engine of particular size is strong enough to tow a certain large travel trailer. Unfortunately, this really isn’t the best question to be asking.

The reality is, almost any size vehicle, with an adapted towing appa-

ratus connecting to a large and heavy object on wheels, will be able to tow it. Heck, my wife and I watched an old F150 flatbed truck tow my 17,800-pound trailer up a steep slope at the 49er RV Ranch in Columbia, California, and then backed it into an RV space that was also on a short rise. Because of the space restrictions, I couldn’t have accomplished that with my dually.

On YouTube, you can find videos of a Toyota Tundra towing the Space Shuttle, and a VW Touareg towing a 747 jumbo jet. In one episode of the TV show, *Top Gear USA*, a Ford F150 truck towed a 727 cargo jet around an obstacle course.

The ability to tow something is never the problem.