

Hitch Torque Specs (Most Forget)

Your hitch has torque specs. Your weight distribution bars have torque specs. Your fifth-wheel pin box has torque specs. Most owners hand-tighten everything. Here's the spec sheet you need.

Two-and-five-sixteenths hitch ball into receiver — three-hundred to four-hundred foot-pounds depending on manufacturer. That's HARD. Hand-tight is not enough. Buy a half-inch torque wrench. Eighty bucks.

Weight distribution bars — head unit torque varies by brand. Equal-i-zer is two-hundred-thirty foot-pounds. Reese Strait-Line is similar. Read your manual. The number is in there.

Fifth wheel pin box — bolts to the trailer frame. Three-quarter-inch grade-eight bolts at one-hundred-twenty foot-pounds standard. Check them annually. Vibration loosens them.

All these torque specs were derived for a reason. Loose hitch ball — drop hitch and trailer. Loose WD head — sway and accident. Loose fifth-wheel pin box — separation at speed. Don't guess.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Comment if you've ever checked your hitch torque. Most haven't. I want a count.