

# Vehicle Towing Guide

Towing System Guide & Instructions



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 **Budget**<sup>®</sup>  
Truck Rental

# Vehicle Towing Overview

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- Car carrier: pages 5-12
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## Trouble-Free Solutions for Transporting your Vehicle

Budget has two types of vehicle towing systems: car carriers and tow dollies. Both are for rental with our 16' and/or 24' moving trucks.

## Easy Hook-Up

By following the instructions in this guide, you can hook up the vehicle towing system yourself. Or, if you prefer, a Budget representative will hook it up for you. If you choose to do it yourself, be sure to perform each step in the instructions in the order shown. If you have Budget do the hookup for you, make sure you are familiar with the instructions in case you encounter a situation en route that requires detachment and reattachment, and to help you unhook when you arrive at your destination. Keep this instruction guide handy throughout your trip.

Please note that although Budget representatives can assist you with hooking up the car carrier or tow dolly to the Budget truck, it is **YOUR SOLE RESPONSIBILITY** to properly load, secure and unload your vehicle onto the car carrier or tow dolly according to the specific instructions found in this brochure.

You are responsible for verifying all state laws for vehicle towing and width restrictions for any Vehicle Towing System.

### CAUTION

*For rear-wheel drive vehicles, please read page 15 of this brochure carefully.*

# Weight & Size Limitations

## SAT– Car Carrier

- Carrier weight: 1,925 lbs.
- Maximum load weight: 4,055 lbs.
- Maximum carrier total weight: 5,980 lbs.
- Interior platform dimensions: Length: 12', Width: 6'7" (max.), 3'6" (min.)

## TD2 – Tow Dolly

Identified by a sticker on tow dolly (total weight of towed vehicle):

- Front-wheel drive vehicles: 3,300 lbs.
- AWD, 4WD, RWD vehicles: 3,600 lbs.
- Maximum car width: 76" outside of tire to outside of tire on the front axle.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Most Budget trucks are designed and equipped to be used for towing the Budget car carrier. Each truck has a maximum towing capacity decal on the rear door. Check the towing capacity decal to be sure that the truck has the correct towing capacity for your needs, or ask your Budget Representative for assistance.

Check the load capacity decal on the front of the car carrier to be sure it has the correct load capacity for your needs or ask your Budget representative for assistance.

Towed vehicles that exceed weight limits will overload the tow dolly and may cause serious injury and damage to both towed vehicle and dolly. Do not load a towed vehicle exceeding the width limit; it will obstruct the platform's swivel action when underway and could damage the towed vehicle's tires and the tow dolly.

## Backing Up

The tow dolly is not a trailer and cannot be backed up because it swivels both at the coupler and car platform. If you must back up, offload car first, disconnect the coupler, and move car and dolly separately. Park where you can pull ahead when leaving.

## Perform a Safety Check

Whichever vehicle towing system you're using, check it carefully after it has been hooked up. To check the vehicle towing system after hookup, tow about 100 feet. Then stop and perform a safety check. Check the tire straps, bolts, chains, coupler hand wheel, ramps and other items to make sure they are in the right position and secure. In addition, check all tail lights and stop lights to make sure they are operating properly. Repeat the safety check after the first 50 miles thereafter. Check all tires for recommended P.S.I.

### NOTE

**Optional Personal Accident/Cargo protection and Damage Waiver do not cover damage to the towed vehicle. Ask your Budget representative about optional Auto Tow Protection.**



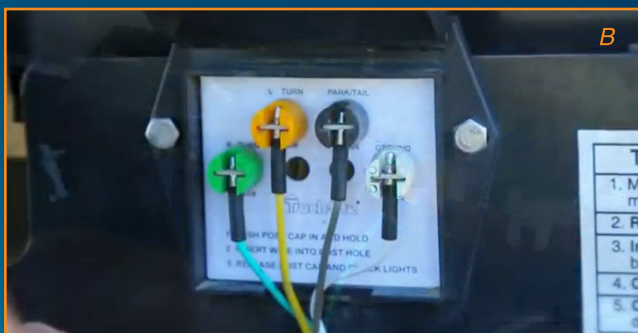
## Car Carrier Instructions

The following instructions have been provided to familiarize users to safely load and unload a vehicle on a Budget AT6000BG car carrier. Read these instructions and those in the towed vehicle's owner's manual completely before proceeding.

1. The first step before loading a vehicle is to ensure that the Budget rental truck parking brake is fully engaged, and setting on a level surface.
2. Ensure the coupler hitch is securely attached to the Budget rental truck, and make sure the safety cables of the Budget car carrier are crisscrossed under the tongue and secured to the mounting loops on the Budget rental truck.
  - Make sure the actuator emergency brake-away cable is secured to the mounting loop on the truck. (see below, *A*)



3. Make sure that the light wires of the Budget car carrier are secured to the truck and check for proper operation. (see below, *B*)



4. Make sure the tongue jack is fully raised and rotated to storage position before towing the car carrier.  
(see below, C)



5. The Budget car carrier must be completely and properly attached to the truck and setting on a level surface, before loading a towed vehicle. The vehicle to be loaded must have an outside tire width of not more than 79" and an inside width of not less than 42" and must not exceed 4055 lbs. (*see below, D*)



- Remove the winch lock pins from left and right strap winch on front of the Budget car carrier. To release the winch, grasp handle squeezing trigger, then push down, while simultaneously pulling the strap up to pull excess strap material from the winch. (see below, E)





## Car Carrier Instructions *(cont.)*

7. Lay the tire strap to the outside of the car carrier.  
Repeat the process on the other side. (*see below, F*)



8. Release the front and back safety chains for easy access for later use. (*see below, G*)



9. Extend the loading ramps. To extend the ramps, pull the release latch down, while pulling out the ramp completely and lowering the ramp to ground. (*see below, H*)



10. With someone safely guiding you from the side, center the vehicle to the Budget car carrier and slowly drive forward until tires touch the front tire stops.
  - Never back a vehicle onto the Budget car carrier.
  - Place towed vehicle in park (automatic) or in gear (manual) and set parking brake.

11. Place the tire straps over the front tires centering the straps and winches to tires. While tightening straps, pull cross straps forward to ensure even tightening. Tighten the straps until each tire starts to flatten against each tire stop. (see below, *I*)



12. After strap is tight, insert lock pin into winch with the handle placed in a forward position. (see below, *J*)



13. Attach the front and rear safety chains to the towed vehicle axle or frame allowing some slack in the chains. Chains must not attach to or go over steering or brake parts of the towed vehicle. (see below, *K*)





## Car Carrier Instructions (cont.)

14. Grasp the ramp handles, lift ramp and slide each ramp in until latch locks.(see below, L)



### SAFETY WARNING

*Please follow all instructions, failure to do so may result in serious injury or death.*

15. Release the Budget rental truck's parking brake and drive forward 100 feet. Stop and perform safety check.
- Check the hitch, the ball coupler, the safety chains, tire straps, ramps, and other items to ensure they are tight and in correct position.
  - Check all lights to make sure they are operating properly.
  - Repeat this safety check after the first 5 miles and every 50 miles thereafter.
  - Do not exceed 55 MPH.
  - Car carrier tires must be inflated to the recommended P.S.I. See decal on car carrier for correct pressure.

# Unloading the Budget Car Carrier



## WARNING

*Do not unhook the Budget car carrier from the Budget rental truck until the towed vehicle is completely unloaded from car carrier.*

1. Fully engage parking brake on Budget rental truck.
2. Extend the ramps by pulling the release latch down and fully extending each ramp and lower them to the ground.
3. Unhook and release each safety chain, both front and back underneath the towed vehicle.
4. Remove the winch lock pins from the strap winches. Grasp the handle, squeeze trigger and push down to loosen each tire strap. Lay each strap to the side of the car carrier.
5. Release the towed vehicle parking brake, and with someone safely guiding you, back the vehicle off of the Budget car carrier slowly.
6. Grasp the handles of each ramp and slide each ramp in until they lock and return each safety chain and tire strap to their respective storage positions.

## Car Carrier Do's & Don'ts

- Read towing instructions in towed vehicle owner's manual.
- Ensure truck parking brake is fully engaged before starting hookup, loading, unloading or unhooking car carrier.
- Always load towed vehicle facing forward.
- Connect tail and stop system to connector box at rear of truck. Tail lights and stop lights must be hooked up and operating properly at all times.
- Don't back up truck with car carrier attached. Select parking places where you can pull ahead when leaving.
- Always adjust truck's right and left side mirrors so you can see behind the vehicle you are towing.
- Avoid sudden stops whenever possible. Use brakes with caution to prevent damage to your towed vehicle.
- Don't exceed 55 mph or any lower posted speed limit. Braking distance increases when using a car carrier. Use caution always allow sufficient distance for braking.
- Never start turning the truck from a stop. Roll ahead before turning wheels.
- Pass other vehicles with extreme care. Use your rear view mirrors frequently. Allow enough room for passing. Don't cut back sharply after passing another vehicle. Instead, signal and ease back into your lane with caution.

- If you feel that the car carrier is not trailing smoothly, immediately stop to find out why. Call your Budget representative if there is any problem.
- Don't transport passengers or cargo in vehicle being towed.
- Don't unhook car carrier from towing vehicle until towed vehicle is completely unloaded from car carrier.
- Descend hills in lower gear. Avoid sudden braking or lane changes when descending a hill.
- Drive truck and car carrier in outside traffic lane. This allows traffic to be on just one side of the truck.



## Tow Dolly Instructions

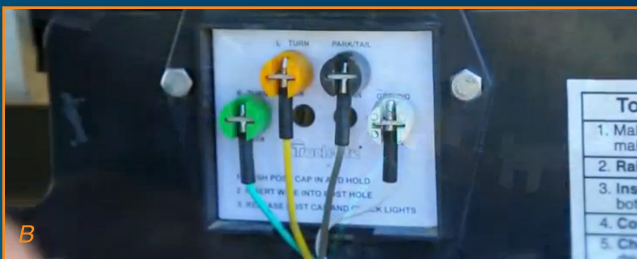
The following instructions have been produced to familiarize users with the proper procedures to safely load and unload a vehicle on the Budget GR300B tow dolly. Read these instructions and those in the towed vehicle's owner's manual completely before proceeding.

The first step before loading a vehicle is to ensure that the Budget rental truck parking brake is fully engaged, and setting on a level surface.

1. Ensure the Budget tow dolly ball coupler is securely attached to the Budget rental truck, pull up on the Budget tow dolly tongue to ensure that it is properly secured and make sure that the coupler latch is in the down position and closed. (see below, **A**)



- Make sure that the coiled safety cables are crisscrossed under the tongue, connected to the loops on the Budget rental truck, and that they have adequate slack for movements in turns.
2. Check the wiring connections on the Budget rental truck to ensure that each wire is connected properly. Check the lights for proper operation. (see below, **B**)



3. To load a vehicle, ensure that the Budget rental truck and the Budget tow dolly are straight, on level ground and properly hooked up before loading a towed vehicle.

4. Remove the winch lock pins from the left and right strap winch on the front of the Budget tow dolly. To release the winch, grasp the handle, squeeze the trigger, and push down while simultaneously pulling the strap up to pull excess strap material from the winch. (see below, [C](#))



5. Lay the tire strap to the outside of the tow dolly between the fender and the main frame. Repeat the process on the other side. (see below, [D](#))



6. The next step is to allow the platform to tilt back for loading. Swing the bottom of the locking latch forward far enough to allow the locking pin handle to be lifted. Swing the locking pin handle upward, then pull forward as far as it will go. The wheel platform will tilt back to allow for loading. (see below, [E](#))



7. Before loading the towed vehicle, always make sure the platform and the towed vehicle are in straight alignment.



# Tow Dolly Instructions

(cont.)



## IMPORTANT

If the towed vehicle is a rear wheel or four wheel drive vehicle, the drive shaft must be disconnected. Simply placing the transmission of one of these vehicles into neutral is NOT sufficient to prevent damage to the vehicle transmission. All vehicles loaded on a Budget tow dolly must be loaded with the front of the vehicle facing forward. Always consult your vehicles owner's manual to help determine if and how your vehicle is suitable to be towed.

8. With someone safely guiding you, center the towed vehicle to the Budget tow dolly. Slowly, drive the towed vehicle forward, until the tires touch the wheel stops at the front of the Budget tow dolly platform!
9. Ensure that the towed vehicle is centered on the Budget tow dolly platform and the tires are centered in the wheel pans.
10. Place the towed vehicle in park or manual transmission in gear and engage the parking brake, shut off the engine and remove the ignition key, lock the steering wheel of the towed vehicle with the tires in a straight position. If the towed vehicle does not have a locking steering column the steering wheel must be securely tied. (see below, *F*)



## NOTE

Do not back any vehicle onto a tow dolly. Tow Dollies are designed to transport the front axle of vehicles only.

11. Next, ensure that the platform of the Budget tow dolly is locked in the transport position. Push the locking pin rearward toward the platform and swing the handle down making sure the locking latch has engaged and is in its transport position. (see below, *G*)



12. Place the tire straps over each tire centering the straps and winches to the tires, avoiding contact with any suspension components. (see below, *H*)



13. While tightening the straps, pull the tire straps and cross straps forward to ensure even tightening.
14. Tighten the straps until each tire starts to flatten against the tire stop.
15. After the strap is tight and with the handle in the down position, insert the lock pin through the hole in the winch pawl arm and winch frame and secure the retainer clip. (see below, *I*)



## Tow Dolly Instructions *(cont.)*

16. Hook the supplied safety chains to the frame of the towed vehicle directly above the area where the chains are mounted, leaving enough slack for suspension movement. Make sure chain does not contact brake lines or steering component. (see below, J)



17. Release the parking brake on the towed vehicle ensuring that the steering wheel is locked straight or that the steering wheel is secured in the straight position. Remove the ignition keys and lock the doors of the towed vehicle.



### SAFETY WARNING

Please follow all instructions. Failure to do so may result in serious injury or death. Perform Safety Check after first 100 feet, after the first 5 miles of travel and then every 50 miles, thereafter. Check bolts, chains, tailgate ramp, coupler hand wheel and other items to ensure they are tight and in the correct position. Also, check all tail lights and stop lights to make sure they are operating properly.

18. Release the truck's parking brake and drive forward 100 ft. Stop and perform the following safety check. Check the hitch and ball coupler, safety chains, tire straps, ramps and any other items to ensure they are secured and in the correct position. Check all lights to make sure they are operating properly. Repeat this safety check after the first 5 miles and every 50 miles thereafter. Do not exceed 55 MPH.
- Tow dolly tires must be inflated to the recommended P.S.I. See decal on tow dolly for correct pressure.

## Unloading the Towed Vehicle

1. Ensure that the Budget rental truck and Budget tow dolly are straight and on level ground and properly hooked up before attempting the unloading procedures.
2. Fully engage the parking brakes of both the towed vehicle and the Budget rental truck.
3. Unhook and remove the safety chains and set out of the way.
4. The tire straps may be “quick released” by removing the lock pin, grasping the winch pawl and winch handle simultaneously and pushing down sharply.  
(see below, *K*)



5. Remove the strap and set to the side of each tire.
6. The next step is to move the tilt bed pin to allow the platform to tilt back when unloading! Swing the bottom of the locking latch forward far enough to allow the locking pin handle to be lifted. Swing the locking pin handle upward, then pull forward as far as it will go. The wheel platform will tilt back when the vehicle is being unloaded.
7. Release the parking brake of the towed vehicle and slowly back the towed vehicle off of the Budget tow dolly.
8. Return the platform to the locked position.
9. Store the safety chains and the straps in their storage position on each side.

### NOTE

**If removed, reinstall the drive shaft of the towed vehicle.**

## Tow Dolly Do's and Don'ts

- Read towing instructions in towed vehicle owner's manual.
- Ensure truck parking brake is fully engaged before starting hook-up, loading, unloading, or unhooking tow dolly.
- Don't load towed vehicle onto tow dolly until tow dolly is completely and properly hooked up to truck on a level surface.
- Always drive front wheels of towed vehicle onto tow dolly. Don't load backwards.
- Don't load towed vehicle that exceeds weight or size limits onto tow dolly.
- Always have someone safely guide you when driving towed vehicle onto tow dolly.
- Don't back up truck with tow dolly attached. Tow dolly swivels both at coupler and at car platform. If you must back up, unload towed vehicle first, disconnect tow dolly and move vehicle and tow dolly separately. Play it safe... park where you can pull ahead when leaving.
- Don't exceed 55 mph or any lower posted speed limit. Braking distance increases when using tow dolly. Use caution and always allow sufficient braking distance.
- Avoid sharp turns or swerves.
- Descend hills in lower gear. Avoid sudden braking or lane changes when descending a hill.
- Don't unhook tow dolly from towing vehicle until towed vehicle is completely unloaded from tow dolly.
- Don't tow a rear-drive vehicle unless the drive shaft at the rear axle has been disconnected.

### NOTE

*Customer assumes all risks inherent in the operation, use, or possession of the car carrier or tow dolly. Towing a vehicle is the customer's responsibility and it is the customer who must ensure that the width and size limits of the Vehicle Towing System he/she rents are not going to be exceeded by the vehicle being towed. In addition to the other responsibilities of the customer under the Rental Agreement, any injury or damage that results from exceeding weight and size limitations is the sole responsibility of the customer.*

# IS YOUR VEHICLE PROTECTED?

Optional Personal Accident/Cargo protection and Damage Waiver do not cover damage to the towed vehicle.

Budget Truck Rental offers Auto Tow Protection (ATP) which protects your personal automobile while it's being towed.

Auto Tow Protection (ATP) is the insurance that provides renters with coverage for damage to their personal automobile while it is being towed by the rental truck using a car carrier or tow dolly also rented from Budget.

ATP provides coverage for loss of or damage to the renter's personal automobile on an actual cash value basis up to \$15,000. There is a \$250 deductible per loss.

Ask your Budget representative for more information on optional Auto Tow protection.

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