

# Truck Preparation Guide





# Welcome to the family!

There are moments in life that transform us.

Learning to ride a bike without training wheels, reeling in your first big catch, and spending a warm night out under the stars; you've probably done some of these things. And the good news is there's more to come.

That's why you ordered your Scout, right?

Before your next big adventure begins, you'll need to prepare your truck for delivery. This guide will help you do that. We'll show you step by step how to get your truck ready for installation, so that you and your Scout are able to travel safely and securely for years to come.

If you have any concerns or questions along the way, please feel free to reach out to your dealer, or one of our Scout brand reps.





# 1. Calculate what you can carry.

Your unit was built to be light weight, but is still far from weightless. That's why our first and most crucial step is all about calculating how much weight your truck can handle. There are four main categories you'll want to look at, and it's the responsibility of the operator (you) to calculate and determine whether your truck meets adequate carrying criteria.

## **Payload Capacity:**

In most cases, manufacturers will post a truck's payload capacity in the glove box. This recommended range is a first point of reference that many people use when deciding what modifications they may want, or need, to make to their vehicle prior to pick-up.

## **GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating):**

This is the maximum weight your manufacturer rates the truck to carry. That rating includes your "curb weight" (weight of the truck when empty), along with whatever passengers, cargo, pets and fuel you plan to add for any given trip.

## **GAWR (Gross Axle Weight Rating)**

If you've got a truck, then you've got two axels. Those axels each have their own weight rating that you can use to calculate your GAWR, and achieve optimal load distribution.

## **Tire Capacity (Load Rating)**

For as beefy as trucks can be, it's easy to forget they only go as far as their tires take them. That's why you'll want to check the fine print on the sidewall of each of your tires to learn what your load rating is. We highly recommend the use of "E" load rated tires, especially for lengthy travels, on or off road.

Keep your calculations on-hand as you plan for pick-up, and don't be afraid to join the Scout Campers Owners group on Facebook to find real-life tips and suggestions.

## 2. The easiest 75 lbs you'll ever lose.

While it's true that your Scout can be installed without removing the tailgate, leaving it at home lowers your travel weight significantly. Sometimes up to 150 lbs for larger, 3500 trucks.

Usually a simple process that does not require tools, and easy to replace once you're home from your adventures, removing your tailgate is something to consider before you head out to pick up your unit.



### 3. Prepping the bed of your truck.

A good sweep of your truck bed prior to installation helps prevent wear and tear to the base of your camper. Your truck bed needs to be cleared of all debris (screws, nails, branches and rocks) prior to installation of your Scout. Plastic bed liners, rugs and carpet kits, bed caps and tool boxes will also need to be removed to ensure a safe fit.

We recommend the purchase of a rubber bed mat prior to pick-up day. Rubber bed mats should be at least 1/2" thick (or above), and will help protect your unit from sliding/bumping along the surface of your truck bed while you drive. These mats are a cost effective option that prevent damage to both your camper and your truck.







## 4. Choosing the right tires.

It's crucial you make sure your tires are in good condition, and have the right weight rating for your truck and camper. You can find this capacity in the fine print on the sidewall of your tire, which is usually located just behind the tire inflation number.

While the brand, performance, and style of your tire is up to you, we highly recommend they meet or surpass "E Rated" standards. Stock tires may be okay if they have the right weight rating and are in good condition. If in doubt, upgrading your existing tires is highly advised. This gives you added peace of mind, and can greatly improve your truck's road performance, handling, safety and stability.



## 5. Getting technical with the electrical.

Soon, you'll be picking up your unit and will need to know how it connects to your truck's electrical system. For many, the 7-prong wiring located at the hitch is the easiest option. However, if you're planning to tow additional items, you'll need to add a secondary 7-prong connection to your truck box. Connecting to the hitch or a secondary access point will require the use of a pigtail extension. Your dealership can help you select the pigtail extension that's right for you.

Along with ensuring you have an access point, you'll want to make sure your truck's electrical system is functioning well. Check the condition of your truck battery and make sure it's free of corrosion. Once your truck's electrical system is confirmed to be functioning well, you'll be able to connect your truck to your new Scout.







## 6. Load it up, and tie it down.

Each Scout camper comes standard with a ratchet tie down system that securely attaches your truck camper to the bed of your truck.

There are two ways to secure the ratchet hooks:

A) By making use of your truck's factory truck box anchors. You'll want to verify with your truck's manufacturer that your standard tie down anchors meet the appropriate load ratings for your Scout.

B) Consider custom alternative solutions. If for any reason your anchors are in question, feel free to connect with our team (or your local dealer) to explore additional options.



# 7. Suspension Enhancements

For the best experience, we encourage all Scout owners to consider certain suspension enhancements - especially for those who own mid-sized or half-ton trucks.

Properly rated airbags, helper springs and overload springs are highly recommended.

The Firestone Ride-Rite Air Bags are our recommendation because they are “designed to maximize safe load carrying capacity, stability, and overall ride quality.” Refer to your local tire shop for more information and installation.

A leveled vehicle will grant more maneuverability, and ensure a safer, more stable ride.





# Ready for action!

These simple steps help ensure your truck camping experience is as safe and secure as possible. Our goal is to explore without limits, and help our community do so, as well.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to our team. Our brand reps can be contacted directly at [scoutcampers.com](https://scoutcampers.com). We are happy to address any questions you may have.

# SCOUT