

Adventuring off the beaten track this Easter?

We can keep you powered up with our range of Dual Battery Systems



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WHERE CAN I PUT A DUAL BATTERY SYSTEM?

What upgrades does my car need to tow a caravan?

So you want to buy a caravan or finally do that long road trip you've been dreaming of! Fantastic! But before you hook up and drive off there are some things to check to ensure your vehicle is capable and safe towing a caravan.

Check Towing Capacity

The very first thing you should do is check your vehicles towing capacity. The towing capacity is the maximum weight your vehicle is rated to tow. This can usually be found in the vehicles owner's manual. Your vehicles towing capacity will need to be high enough to handle the maximum loaded weight of the caravan. Estimate the average total weight of the caravan by finding the weight of the empty caravan. This will be in caravan's owner's manual or written on the caravan itself. If you haven't purchased the caravan yet, check with the manufacturer or dealer. Next, estimate the weight of your cargo to go in the caravan and add it to the empty caravan weight.

Towbar

Make sure the towbar on your car is rated to carry your caravan. If your vehicle already has a towbar fitted there should be a sticker or plate with the max towbar capacity (trailer and ball load). You may need to check on the towbar itself or in the door jam. Many towbars are only intended to tow light trailers and will be totally unsuitable, illegal and potentially unsafe for heavy use. Once you've worked out the towing capacity, it's time to look at what can be done

to your vehicle to make towing a caravan easier, safer and more enjoyable.

Electric Brake Controller

Due to the legal requirements of needing an efficient braking system on at least one axle of all caravans exceeding 750kg GTM, it is likely your caravan will be fitted with Electric brakes. Electric brake controllers are legally required on all caravans over 2000kg GTM however, we recommend them on all caravans. The benefits of having an Electronic Brake Controller far outweigh not having one. You'll notice less push from behind, easier and quicker braking and stopping, they reduce the likely-hood of jack-knifing and reduce wear and tear on your vehicle's brakes. We personally love the REDARC Tow Pro Elite due to its proportional braking method capabilities.

Breakaway Units

It's a legal requirement in all States in Australia that caravans over 2000kg GTM be fitted with breakaway units, and for good reason. In the event the caravan or trailer detaches from the car, the Break Away Unit system will apply electrical breaks to the runaway trailer or caravan preventing an accident.

Mirrors

Towing a caravan impedes the line of sight within your mirrors. There are two possible options: Clip On/Extension Mirrors – attach to the existing side mirror of your car. You can get removable options if you

don't tow that often or permanent ones if you are hitting the highway for a big trip. Extendable Towing Mirrors – replace your existing mirror and are extendable. You can extend them out when the caravan is attached or bring them back in when it isn't.

Dual Reverse Camera

Our number one tip for getting into tight spots with the caravan? Install a dual reverse camera. This amazing little piece of tech can be mounted to the rear of your car and again to the rear of the caravan and makes reversing up to hitch the caravan, or reversing the caravan into tight spots a breeze. They're also great when driving on the highway and taking over other vehicles

Anderson Plugs

Anderson plugs allow you to keep everything in your caravan running or charging while you're on the road without the fear of burning out some wires. Which we often see in 7-pin and 12-pin trailer plugs. They're compatible with most dual battery set ups, are designed to handle power rated at 50 amps (or more) and are available in various colours and amp ratings. There are lots of things to consider when getting your vehicle ready to tow your caravan, so we hope this has helped you navigate around the different requirements and accessories that are out there. Happy Travels!

EASTER HOLIDAY TOP PICKS



Thunder LED Strip Light Kit \$227



Redarc TowPro Elite Unit Only \$351 Installed from \$595



Thunder Jump Starter \$360

Bought a new Caravan or Upgrading your Towing Vehicle?

We have a range of towing packages available to get you ready to hit the road or can create a custom solution to suit your needs.

from **\$595**

Redarc TowPro Elite V3

from **\$890**

Redarc TowPro Elite V3 with 50A Anderson Plug

from **\$1150**

Redarc TowPro Elite V3 with 50A Anderson Plug & 12 Pin with Fridge Wiring