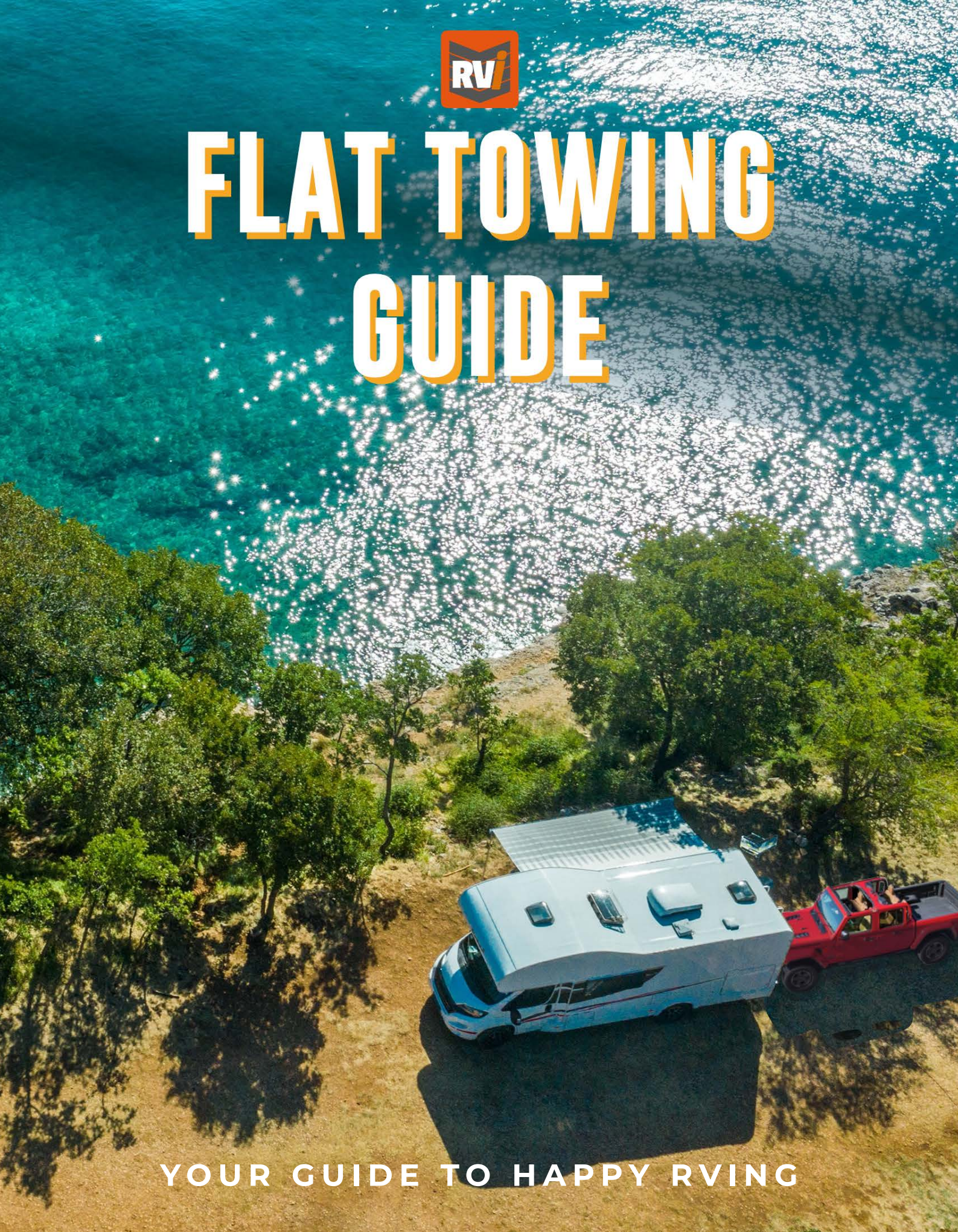
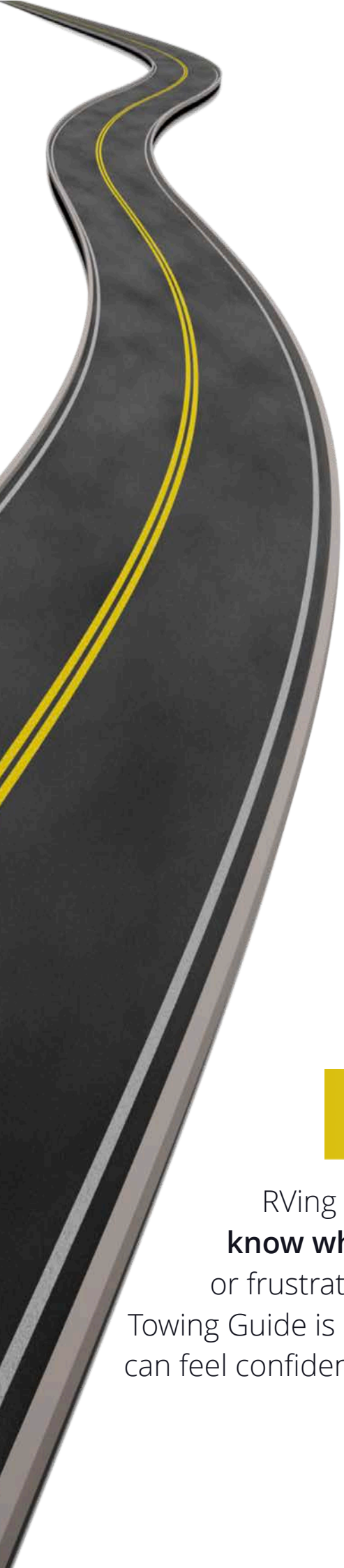
FLAT TOWING GUIDE



YOUR GUIDE TO HAPPY RVING

rvibrake.com | 800-815-2159 | contact@rvibrake.com



TAKE A RIDE

ON THE ROAD TO WORRY FREE RVING!

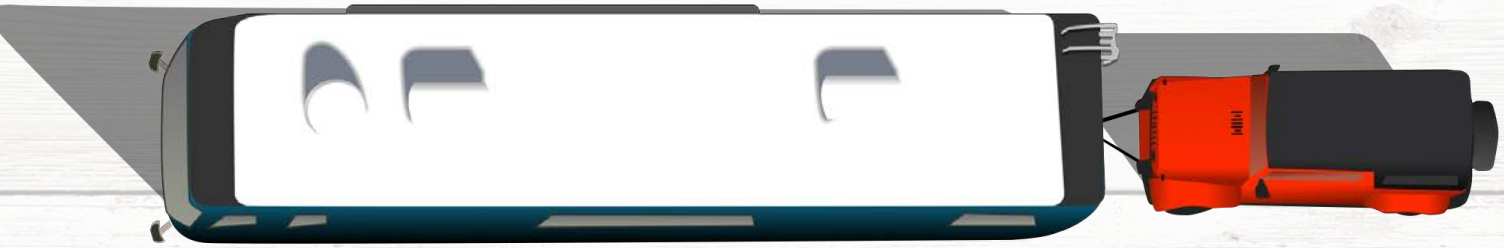


DEFINITION: flat tow•ing | flat/tō/
pulling a vehicle flat on all four tires behind an RV with a tow bar

RVing is about having fun and being in the moment. **Do you know what takes away the fun out of RVing?** Feeling unsafe or frustrated because you don't have the right gear. The RVi Flat Towing Guide is designed to help you become a flat towing wiz, so you can feel confident and safe for whatever adventure you can dream up.

Live your next adventure to the fullest. Let's ride!

Has Your Family Experienced





FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

Not knowing your tire pressures, will towed battery start, low gas mileage, emergency stops



PRODUCT FAILURE

Poor product experience, experiencing a hitch failure, not stopping soon enough in a braking



LOST TRIP TIME

Being pulled over for not being legal, tire blowout, dead towed battery



ON THIS GUIDED TOUR

YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO CONFIDENTLY CHOOSE YOUR FLAT TOWING ESSENTIALS:



1 Towed Vehicle

2 Tow Bar

3 Lighting System

4 Braking System

5 Tire Monitoring

6 The Extras

CHOOSING YOUR TOWED VEHICLE





No one wants to start their trip grumpy because you have to jump through hoops to start flat towing. The more simple the more smiles.

It all starts with the towed vehicle and there are a few things to consider when selecting one. Does it:

- **keep it simple?**
- **are they easy to setup to tow?**
- **have serious cool factor?**
- **go anywhere you can dream up?**
- **have special steps to tow it?**



For these reasons, Jeep Wranglers are the top towed vehicle for us.

Whatever towed vehicle you choose, just know what steps you're getting in to. MotorHome Magazine puts out a comprehensive list of flat towable vehicles in their annual Dinghy Towing Guide. You can download each year HERE and start feeling like a flat towing wizard.

Like any flat towable vehicle, you'll have to install brackets for the tow bar and a breakaway switch, which is common to all vehicles.

CHOOSING YOUR TOW BAR



2

Tow bars are what connect your towed vehicle to your RV for flat towing. Though they all can pull your car, tow bars are not all created equal. There are three main players in the tow bar market:

SAFETY FIRST

- **Blue Ox**
- **Demco**
- **Roadmaster**

In our opinion, Roadmaster's latest line of tow bars are superior, due to their level of quality. Each tow bar has a life of over 100,000 extensions, which is extraordinary for the tow bar market.

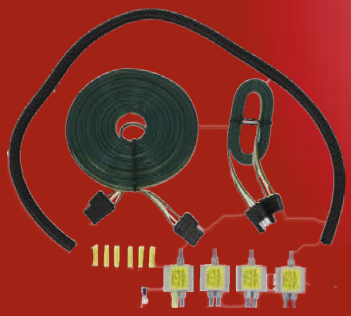
The latest gem in the line up is the **Roadmaster Nighthawk**. It features:

- **a built-in 6 to 7-wire power cord**
- **truly non-binding freedom latches**
- **a cool LED strip down the sides of the tow bar for safety at night when the towed vehicle is hard to see**

When you purchase a tow bar you have to also purchase a baseplate specific to your towed vehicle for the tow bar to attach. You can learn more at roadmasterinc.com.

CHOOSING YOUR LIGHT SYSTEM









Lighting systems for towing are required by law any where your adventures take you. There are 3 types of light systems in the market:

Permanent wired
using wiring to existing light bulbs or adding new bulbs to the vehicle

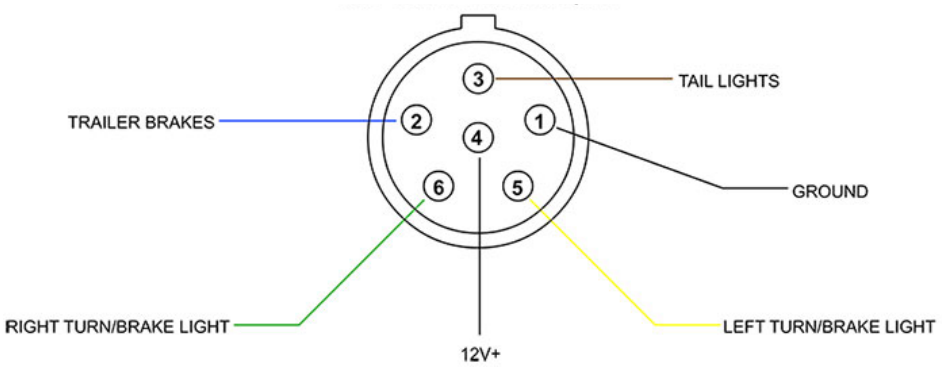
Non-permanent wired
using wiring that goes over the top of the car to “Mickey Mouse” lights

Wiireless light systems
using a magnet to stick to the towed vehicle and connect wirelessly to the RV

In our opinion, installing a permanent wired light system that pulls the light signals from the RV is the most elegant and seamless. This happens via an umbilical cable that goes from motorhome to the towed vehicle.

We recommend a 6-pin receiver on the towed vehicle side is to keep your options open for flat towing accessories like our Towed Battery Charger Plus.

Pins on a 6-pin umbilical:



CHOOSING YOUR BRAKING SYSTEM





4

Fear makes us do funny things, and not knowing if you have the right gear or if you are legal can be scary. Supplemental braking systems are required by law in 49/50 US states and all of Canada for towed vehicles, because of **emergency stops** or a possible **catastrophic hitch failure.** Learn more about flat towing safety HERE.

A towed vehicle at 3,800 lbs. **adds 10 feet per 10 mph** of stopping distance. That's 50 feet at 50 mph. Whoa!

There are two types of brake systems on the market that can protect you:

- **portable non-installed**
- **permanently installed**

49 of 50
states & all of Canada require a braking system

In our opinion, RVibrake3 portable braking system is the right choice. It features an easy 30 second setup and it's packed with features that making flat towing safe and fun for you.

There are a few brakes on the market to choose from and whether you choose RVibrake or another braking system, we just care that you're safe.

BRAKING SYSTEMS *on the market*

	RVibrake 3	Patriot 2	Brake Buddy 3	Invisibrake	Air Force One/ Stay & Play
Brake Type	*Portable*	*Portable*	*Portable*	*Permanent Install*	*Permanent Install*
Install Time	*30 min.*	*30 min.*	*1 hr.*	*6-8 hrs.*	*6-8 hrs.*
Brake Pedal Response Time	*.5 sec*	***3 sec ****	*.5 sec*	*.5 sec*	*.5 sec*
Height	*3 in.*	*11.5 in.*	*14 in.*	*n/a*	*n/a*
Weight	*10 lbs.*	*15 lbs.*	*12 lbs.*	*n/a*	*n/a*
Daily Set Up Time	*30 sec.*	*2 min.*	*2 min.*	*n/a*	*n/a*

(* Most panic stops last 3 seconds or less)

***(NOTE:** Permanent installed units can void towed vehicle warranty, because it cuts into the vacuum system)*

Features Unique to RVibrake3

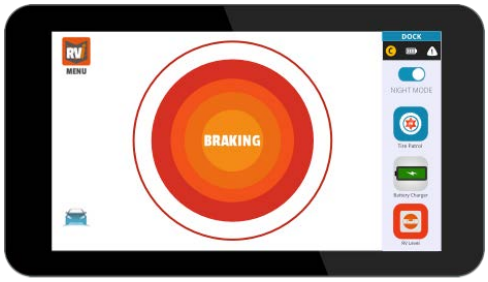
Audio Assistant: *Your guide for simple setup*
RVibrake3's Audio Assistant guides you through the 30 second setup process to ensure you get it right every time.

One-Touch Auto Positioning: *It does it for you*
It's like magic. A simple one button interface that automatically positions itself. Boom! You're a genius.



Brake Lock Detection: *No fear*
Every RVer towing a car has had a nagging fear that they might damage their brakes on their towed vehicle. Now with Brake Lock Detection, the Audio Assistant will let you know if something has been done incorrectly.

7" Touch Screen: *Know what's going on at a glance*
The RVibrake3's tablet shows you when it's braking and alerts you of a possible issue. On this one tablet you can add tire pressure sensors, a battery charger, and more.



Sources:

blueox.com
brakebuddy.com
demco-products.com
roadmasterinc.com

CHOOSING YOUR TIRE PRESSURE SENSORS





RVing is such an exciting way to explore and grow with your family. However, because of an RVs size and weight they can be a liability.

This is why having a **tire pressure monitoring system** (TPMS) is so important. Blowouts can cause major damage to your RV and ultimately ruin an otherwise perfect trip. Learn more about tire safety HERE.

Because of this, it is vitally important to have eyes on your tire pressures and temperatures. In our opinion, Tire Patrol TPMS system is the best option for monitoring your RV and towed vehicle tires. Tire Patrol provides you with crucial data on up to 14 tires - all on one display (Command Center).

TPMS systems have been legally required in all consumer vehicles since 2008, because correct pressures also save on fuel!



TIRE PRESSURE SENSORS *on the market*

	 **Tire Patrol**	 Tire Minder	 TST	 Pressure Pro
Sensor Size	*0.9" x 1"*	*0.8" x 0.9"*	*1" x 1"*	*1.11" x 1.01"*
Senor Weight	*0.3 oz.*	*0.5 oz.*	*0.8 oz.*	*0.7 oz*
Battery Life	*36 months* *	*9-14 months*	*24 months*	*24+ months*
Pairing & Setup Time	*2 minutes*	*8+ minutes*	*8+ minutes*	*8+ minutes*
RF Type	*916mhz*	*433mhz*	*433mhz*	*433mhz*
Screen Size	*7" Color*	*1.8" x 2.6" B&W*	*1.8" x 2.8" B&W*	*1.5" x 2.5" Yellow*
Pressure Range	*0-185 PSI*	*0-150 PSI*	*0-150 PSI*	*10-250 PSI*
Transmission Range	*150 linear feet*	*30 linear feet*	*60 linear feet*	*100 linear feet*
Sonic-welded	●		●	●
Requires repeater or signal booster		●	●	●

* ***If sensors are taken off any time you are not traveling, you can get 3+ years.***

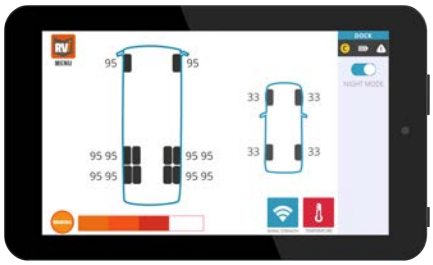
Features Unique to Tire Patrol



Pre-assigned Sensors: ***Pair them as fast as you can thread them on***
Most TPMS systems take 10-20 minutes to set up and pair all sensors. The more sensors you have, the longer it takes. Pre-assigned sensors labeled for each tire expedites pairing.



Battery Intelligence: ***Sensors that can last 3+ years***
To prolong battery life, Tire Patrol sensors go into battery save mode unless pressure is detected and/or the tires are rotating. This allows each sensor's battery can last up to 3 years.



All Pressures, One Screen
The tablet allows you to see all your tire pressures at a glance on one screen. An effortless user experience walks you through choosing your settings, monitoring your tire pressures and temperatures in real-time.

Sources:
tsttruck.com minderresearch.com
pressurepro.us

CHOOSING YOUR
THE EXTRAS



Lastly, there are a few extras to consider. Even though they are small, they can make a big difference between frustrations and smiles.

These all depend on your specific vehicle, but there are a few additional items to consider that can make your flat-towing life much easier:

- Choosing the right umbilical and multi-pin connection between the RV and towed.
- Do you need to pull any fuses and/or disconnect the battery when towing? You may need a Battery Disconnect or Fuse Bypass Switch.
- Some vehicles drain the battery when in tow mode. If you never want a dead towed vehicle battery, Towed Battery Charger Plus is a life saver!
- Not every vehicle has a live 12-volt outlet in their car when in tow mode. In these cases we suggest the 12-Volt Battery Direct Kit.

We've reached the end of our little journey, but this is only the beginning of your flat towing adventures.

You now have the knowledge to get the right gear to help you be safe, not be frustrated, and be the hero of your next trip.

Happy RVing!!

If you have questions, we're only a click or dial away!

Chat | **800-815-2159** | **E-mail**

