TOTAL COMPOSITES

TRUCK BOX

OWNER'S MANUAL

WARNING

This User Manual contains important safety information and features for the safe operation of your truck box. Before loading this truck box, you must read this user manual. Failure to comply could result in serious injury or death.

Introduction

Congratulations on the completion of your Total Composites Truck Box shell. We hope you are excited to start using it. This manual will guide you through the next steps of owning a Total Composites Truck Box.

Disclaimer

This Manual. All information, illustrations, and specifications contained in this manual are based on the latest product information available at the time of publication approval. If new materials and production techniques are developed that can improve the quality of its product, or material substitutions are necessary due to availability, Total Composites reserves the right to make such changes. Total Composites further reserves the right to make changes to the equipment, form, technical system or layout of each camper as it sees fit to be innovative and beneficial. Therefore, no legal claims may be filed against Total Composites based on the contents of this manual. Total Composites is not responsible for the observance or nonobservance of this instruction manual. Any given specifications may be subject to change without notice. Recorded overall weights, fuel, liquid capacities and dimensions may also be approximate.

All operating procedures in this manual are designed as typical under normal conditions. Safe operation and use of any Total Composites product is the sole responsibility of the owner. Total Composites will not be liable for any injury or loss sustained from the observance or non-observance of any procedures or safety warnings supplied in this manual or in any third-party manuals or guides supplied within the unit.

Loading your Truck Box

It is important to select the right combination of vehicle and Total Composites Truck Box. Your dealer will be a valuable source of information when matching a camper to your truck. The weight of Total Composites Truck Box shells are listed below.

Truck Box Model Weights:

6000 Slide in – 245kg/540lb

8400 Slide in – 275kg/606lb

7700 Slide in – 360kg/795lb

9600 Slide in – 405kg/895lb

7700 Flatbed – 410kg/903lbs

9600 Flatbed – 450kg/990lbs

7700 Flatbed with Departure Angle – 440kg/970lbs

9600 Flatbed with Departure Angle – 480kg/1058lbs

- To estimate the total cargo load that will be placed on a truck, add the weight of all passengers, the weight of supplies, tools, and all other cargo, the weight of installed additional or optional camper equipment, and the Total Composites Truck Box weight figure. Select a truck that has a cargo weight rating that is equal to or greater than the total cargo load.
- Truck payload capacity is the amount of weight a truck is designed to carry. Truck Box Shells are considered "truck payload". New trucks have their payload capacity posted in the glove box or on a specification sheet supplied with the truck owner's manual. Trucks that have many options and/or a 4-wheel drive option have less payload. When calculating payload, truck manufacturers assume allseat positions are filled with persons weighing 150 pounds each.
- The bed of your truck typically is fastened to its frame with mounts allowing for some movement. Enough clearance must be allowed between truck and truck box shell to prevent damage that can be caused by racking, twisting, and bouncing during normal driving conditions.
- The cab-over of the truck box should never be closer than 1 ½" to the highest point of your truck's cab to allow clearance for cab marker lights or tracking system antennas, if equipped.
- A minimum of ¼" clearance between the truck bed side rails and the camper wing is required. Some truck models have a tapered bed, meaning the bed depth is different between the front and rear.This can make the camper look tilted (front higher than the rear) along the bed of the truck.
- It may be necessary to place a bed mat on the truck bed to raise the truck box.
- Using a truck with under-rated towing and loading capacities to haul a truck box can cause serious stability problems. Additionally, the strain put on the engine, structural frame and drivetrain of the truck may lead to serious maintenance problems. The maximum towing and payload capacities of your truck must never be exceeded. Refer to your tow vehicle's Owner's Manual for the towing capacity of your tow vehicle, in terms of maximum Gross Weight (GW), maximum Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) and payload.

CARRYING CARGO

When loading this Truck Box, store heavy gear first, keeping it on or close to the camper floor. Place heavy things far enough forward to keep the loaded Truck Box's center of gravity within the zone recommended by the truck manufacturer. Store only light objects on high shelves. Distribute weight to obtain even side-to-side balance of the loaded vehicle. Secure loose items to prevent weight shifts that could affect the balance of your vehicle. When the truck-camper is loaded, drive to a scale and weigh on the front and on the rear wheels separately to determine axle loads. The load on an axle should not exceed its gross axle weight rating (GAWR). The total of the axle loads should not exceed the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). If weight ratings are exceeded, move, or remove items to bring all weights below the ratings.

Truck Box Loading

To minimize safety risks while loading or unloading your truck box, the following must be observed:

- Keep children and animals away from the area when raising or lowering the truck box. Only store your truck box on level ground.
- Be sure all tie-down devices and electrical devices are disconnected from the vehicle before loading.
- Never allow the truck box to be occupied while it is being loaded or unloaded.
- Avoid putting any part of your body under the truck box during the procedure.
- Do not tilt the truck box sideways while raising it on the jacks. The jacks could buckle.
- Always load and unload truck box on firm level ground.
- Use caution when loading and unloading the truck box on a windy day. The amount of wind that is dangerous depends on your exposure and the weight of the truck box. It is best to avoid loading on a windy day.
- Always keep the front higher than the rear. Before loading the camper onto the truck, be sure to attach the tie-downs to the truck.

Important information pertaining to loading your truck box.

- Installed options, personal cargo, water, and fuel will affect your truck box's center of gravity. Cargo must be evenly distributed to properly balance the truck box shell from front to back and side to side.
- An overloaded truck box is often due to excessive cargo. The temptation to fill every available space is common. You must load by weight, not by volume.
- You may have more free space for personal belongings if you wait to fill the water tanks until you arrive at the camp site. Water weighs 8lbs. per gallon.

Step by step instructions for loading your truck box:

1. Extend each jack no more than four inches at once. Start with the front jacks, keeping the truck box level always. Repeat this process until the truck box shell clears the truck body bed by approximately three inches.

2. Place a rubber bed mat on your truck bed. This helps keep the truck box shell stabilized in the truck bed. This is very important.

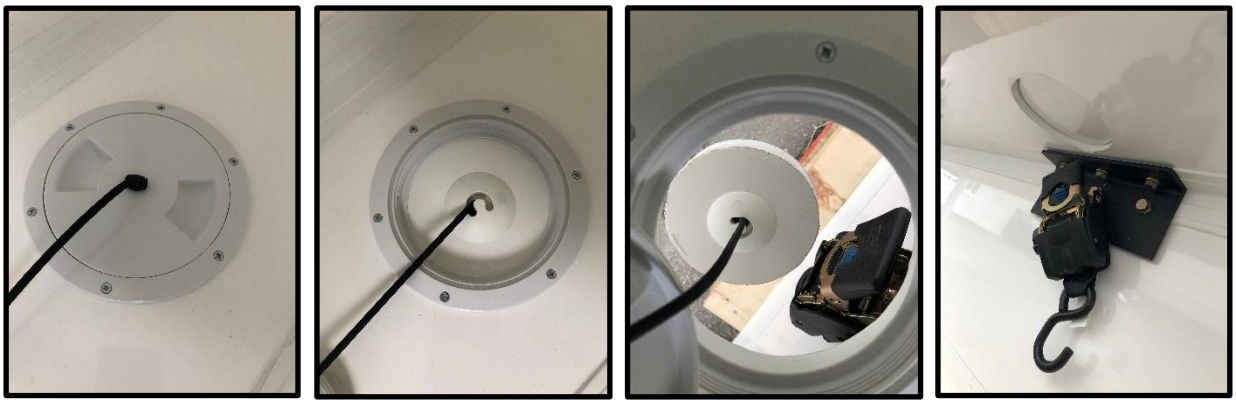
3. Slowly back your truck under the truck box shell making sure to clear wheel wells. This will come easier with some practice.

4. Place rubber protection between truck body and composite shell. Continue backing until the truck bed is just touching wall of composite shell.

5. Slowly retract all jacks until the truck box is resting fully on the truck bed.

7. Retract the jacks completely and secure in place per the manufacturer's instructions.

8. Secure the truck box to the truck via the equipped tie downs that can be accessed through the inside port holes in the truck box shell. The pictures below show how they can be accessed. Make sure to pull back up on the cord to pull the insulated panel back into place. Remember to keep tie downs snug but do not over tighten.



Step by step instructions for unloading your truck box:

1. Position the truck/box combination on firm, level, ground. If needed use 12" square ¾" plywood support pads under each jack to prevent sinking if the ground is soft.

2. Disconnect the front and rear tie-downs

3. Using hand cranks or a drill, operate the jacks individually starting with the front jacks. Extend the jacks no more than 4" at a time. Keep the truck box as level as possible. Repeat the process until the truck box has cleared the truck bed by approximately three inches.

4. Slowly drive the truck from under the truck box until it clears the truck box and the front overhang.

5. Lower the tuck box all the way down to the ground, keeping the rear of the truck box lower than the front.

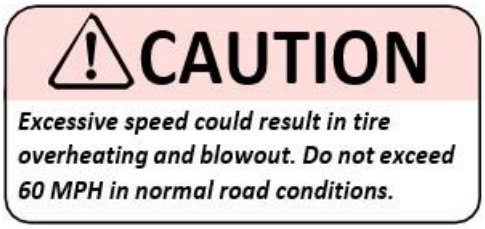
Stabilizing and Setup Important points to observe:

- After unloading the truck box, always lower it down close to ground level.
- Do not enter or occupy the truck box before lowering it to the ground where it is ready for use
- When lowering the truck box, do not allow the underbelly to touch the ground. Allow a minimum of two inches of clearance to the ground from the lowest point of the truck box.
- Always level the truck box front to back and side to side. This will allow your equipment and water drainage to function properly.
- Make sure that all four jacks are touching the ground. If one jack is off the ground it may cause the truck box to rock and feel unsteady when walking inside.

Driving with your Truck Box

Speed

In ideal road conditions, the maximum recommended speed for safely hauling a camper is 60 mph. Your truck box is more prone to imbalance under higher speeds, increasing the possibility for loss of control. Your truck tires can also overheat, increasing the possibility of a blowout.



Rig Dynamics

When hauling a truck box, you will encounter:

- Increased Stopping Distances. To compensate for increased stopping distances, while following another vehicle on the highway, stay one rig length away from the vehicle in front of you for every 10 mph of your speed.
- Decreased Rear View Visibility. Wide or extended mirrors will help remedy this hindrance.
- Higher Center of Gravity. With the weight of your camper siting high up on the back of your truck, you must be extra careful when turning to keep your camper and truck well balance.
- Different Vehicle Handling Dynamics. Your vehicle will be more sensitive to steering in windy conditions. Larger vehicles passing will have a greater effect on the control and handling of the vehicle.
- Slower Acceleration. You will need a longer distance to pass, due to slower acceleration and increased length.

Driving Practices

Safe driving practices and habits:

- Slippery conditions. Slippery road surfaces will be more dangerous when driving a loaded vehicle, compared to driving without.
- Rainy Weather. While rain may seem harmless, the dangers of hydroplaning increase if you do not reduce your speed. It may be helpful to turn on your emergency flashing lights to help others on the road to see you better, especially in heavy rain where visibility is reduced.
- Black Ice. In rainy weather when temperatures drop to 32°F (0°C) or lower, black ice is possible and will show up on bridges first. Reduce your speed to reduce the risk of losing control.
- Vehicle Imbalance. This is caused by excessive steering, wind gusts,roadway edges, the camper's reaction to the force created by passing trucks and buses, or improper loading of cargo in the camper – a frequent problem.
- Check rearview mirrors every 2-3 seconds to observe accompanying traffic. Always check your rearview mirrors before changing lanes, and always use turn signals.
- Use a lower gear when driving down steep or long grades. The engine and transmission should not serve as a brake but rather to maintain a lower speed. Use brakes to gently reduce speed then rely on your engine to maintain the speed. Do not ride your brakes, as they may overheat and become ineffective.
- Always be aware of your camper height, especially when approaching bridges, roofed areas, and trees. Know your exact clearance height and check the height dimension of each bridge before passing underneath.
- Obey all traffic rules. They are for your safety.
- Wear your seatbelt.
- Be alert and courteous to fellow drivers.
- Look out for motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians.
- Always use your running lights to increase your visibility to other traffic.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol, drugs or any kind of medication that will affect your reflexes, comprehension, and alertness.
- Never drive when you are tired. If you begin to fight sleep, switch drivers or, if you are alone, find a place to sleep until you are rested enough to go on. It is more important to arrive safe than on time.
- Never use cruise control on wet, icy roads, winding roads or when traversing mountainous territory.