

Construction Truck Spec Matcher

Match your crew's daily payload and towing needs to the right chassis — before you buy

Run the numbers for each vehicle role in your fleet. A truck that's undersized on payload or towing creates the same hidden costs as a mismatched cargo van — extra trips, missed jobs, and premature wear.

Companion article: "The Hidden Cost of a Mismatched Fleet."

1. Hourly Payload Calculation

a. Average Weight of Crew & Gear	_____ lbs
b. Average Weight of In-Bed Tools / Toolboxes	_____ lbs
c. Max Weight of Materials (drywall, lumber)	_____ lbs
d. Total Required Daily Payload (a + b + c)	_____ lbs

2. Towing Capacity Calculation

a. Weight of Trailer (empty)	_____ lbs
b. Weight of Heaviest Equipment (skid steer)	_____ lbs
c. Total Trailer Weight (a + b)	_____ lbs
d. Recommended Safety Margin (Total × 1.2)	_____ lbs

* Select a truck with a tow rating equal to or greater than line 2d.

3. Bed Length & Utility Checklist

- ☐ Will the bed carry 8-foot materials flat with the tailgate closed?
- ☐ Is a spray-in bed liner installed to prevent moisture trap?
- ☐ Are there at least four heavy-duty tie-down points rated for cargo?
- ☐ Is there enough clearance for a gooseneck or fifth-wheel hitch, if needed?

4. Chassis Selection Guideline

Payload	Towing	Recommended Chassis
Under 2,000 lbs	Under 7,000 lbs	Half-Ton Truck

Payload	Towing	Recommended Chassis
2,000 – 3,500 lbs	7,000 – 14,000 lbs	Three-Quarter-Ton
Over 3,500 lbs	Over 14,000 lbs	One-Ton Dually

If payload and towing point to different tiers, size the truck to the higher of the two.

Recommended Next Step

Recommended Chassis Tier: _____

Truck Model Under Consideration: _____

Vehicle(s) This Will Replace: _____