

# Specifying Trailer Axles

## **Axle Capacity**

The axle capacity is usually determined by subtracting the hitch load from the Gross Vehicle Weight. The remainder will be the load to be carried by the axle(s). When making this calculation, be sure to consider the final load distribution. If the weight is shifted off-center laterally, the load imposed on the wheel(s) on the side closest to the load center will be greater. The load on the heavier side must not exceed one half the rated capacity of the axle(s).

## **Torflex Axles**

Torflex axles should be specified in such a way that will position the vertical section of their mounting brackets directly under the most rigid section of the frame members. This will help to ensure proper support of the axle brackets. (see illustrations in the Torflex Installation section)

## **Lower Floor or Frame Heights**

For applications requiring lower floor or frame heights, drop spindle axles as well as underslung springs on straight spindle axles can be used to achieve the desired height. When Torflex axles are called for, the starting angle of the torsion arm can be specified to be above the horizontal plane to accomplish the same results.

## **Axle Clearance**

Leaf spring type axles must have sufficient clearance to the frame to operate properly. (See Bump clearance definition.) If the spring hangers are too short, the axle may contact the frame during articulation of the suspension and result in overloading of the axle and possible damage. If the spring hangers are too long and provide too much clearance, the springs may be damaged if excessive loads are encountered and the axle is allowed to move too much. If this condition exists, bump stops should be used to prevent over travel.



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