

Trailer Brake Controller Information

Question: My Truck/SUV has a factory equipped trailer-towing package – do I need an electronic trailer brake controller?

Answer: Yes, you NEED a brake controller. A vehicle-towing package only consists of items such as heavy-duty suspension, the hitch, wiring harness/plug, and transmission cooler.

An electric trailer brake controller is a safety device that supplies power from the tow vehicle to the trailer's electric brakes. This allows the trailer to stop at the same rate as the tow vehicle.

Proportional Brake Controller

With proportional brake controllers, once the brake pedal is stepped on, a motion-sensing device knows how fast the tow vehicle is stopping. It then applies power to the trailer brakes equally as fast (or slow) as the towing vehicle. This allows the trailer to stop at the same rate as the tow vehicle. Therefore, in an extreme stopping situation where the vehicle brakes are slammed on, a proportional controller will immediately send the maximum preset power to the trailer brakes.

This type of brake controller provides the smoothest and quickest braking while also providing the least amount of wear on both the vehicle and trailer's brakes. Proportional controllers are "enabled" by the brake pedal switch and "activated" by a pendulum circuit that senses the vehicle's stopping motion and applies a proportional voltage to the trailer's brakes. When properly adjusted the trailer will decelerate at the same rate as the tow vehicle, increasing braking efficiency and reducing brake wear.

The policy of renting a travel trailer from Paul's Southeast Arizona RV Rentals LLC requires that the renter's vehicle be equipped with an electronic trailer brake controller. (This policy is not applicable to Pop Up Tent trailers because of their lightweight).