

HITCHES & TOWBARS

If your hitch is installed properly and the bolts are tight, then your major concern is a loose ball mount. This should be checked before each trip. You need a very large set of channel lock pliers or a pipe wrench and an adjustable spanner wrench or deep socket. This set could cost in the \$50 to \$70 range. Again, our local Unit has a set of tools for use by our members to do this.

You should have a ½-inch socket set with an additional 1 ½-foot handle to check all of the hitch platform, A-frame and sway control bolts. For torquing the wheel nuts purchase the correct size black colored sockets that are 6-point. These are designed for powered air tools and will not round off the high torque nuts or bolts.

You would be surprised how many hitch platforms are installed incorrectly. During our MAU unit's annual maintenance rally, we have discovered dozens of incorrectly installed units. There are very good write-ups on this for all of the types of hitches and sway controls. If you are uncomfortable with this, find someone in your unit that knows or visit your local dealer. Learn the proper method for setting your brake controller and checking for correct operation. These concerns also apply to motorhome owners who tow cars. An excellent summary with good instructions for both types of towing is included in Reference 7, "RV Repair & Maintenance Manual."