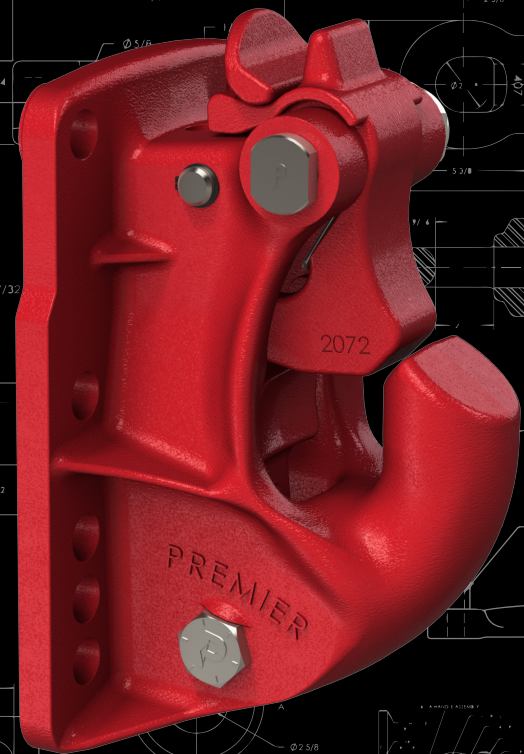




**PREMIER**  
MANUFACTURING CO.

**WHITE PAPER**



**THE BIG DEAL:**

**BALL**  
**HITCH**

**VS**

**PINTLE**  
**HITCH**

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# THE BIG DEAL: WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A BALL HITCH AND A PINTLE HITCH?

When it comes to connecting a truck to a light or medium-duty trailer, fleets have two primary options: a ball hitch or a pintle hitch. But how are they different, and what makes the most sense for your application?



A common **ball hitch** – as the name suggests – is a steel ball that accepts an appropriately-sized tongue, which is secured on top of the ball with a latch inside the tongue. It is safe when weight limits are within spec and it is properly secured but can also be very difficult to connect; lowering the tongue on top of the ball requires precision that can take time when an operator is alone. More importantly, a ball hitch has a much lower weight capacity rating (21,000 pounds GTW), making it irrelevant for the heavy-duty industry as well as many medium-duty applications.



A **pintle hitch** is basically a pincer-type device that closes around a lunette ring or drawbar eye mounted on a trailer. Its larger weight capacity (up to 150,000 pounds GTW) is a tremendous edge, useful for even the most demanding loads. The large lunette ring/drawbar eye makes it ultra-easy to connect, giving a lone driver a more forgiving option.

The pintle hitch offers a much higher safety profile as well, allowing for more secure play over rough and uneven terrain. Its rugged construction can take a beating while making it easy to inspect for damage. Additionally, a quality pintle hitch offers a heavy duty locking bolt, giving drivers extra safety and confidence down the road. The ball hitch may offer a basic cotter pin, but this lightweight part cannot compete with the pintle hitch's locking bolt.

## PREMIER MANUFACTURING SPECIALIZES IN OFFERING INCREDIBLY DURABLE, WELL-BUILT PINTLE HITCHES AND ASSORTED TRUCKING ASSEMBLIES AND JACKS.

Our engineering team has created numerous innovative designs for all our products, including those fighting corrosion (Extended Life) to those that harden with use (Premalloy). Our Saf-Tite line of couplings and pintle hitches can handle your heaviest loads, while our new Saf-T-Latch assembly ensures that the latching system is closed while your vehicle is in motion, all by using a small auxiliary air cylinder that connects to the trailer brakes.



Premier Manufacturing is a private, American owned company with roots going back almost a century, with the invention of the pintle hitch by our founder Dewey Weiss. We design and develop top-of-the-line trailer components, and 8 of the top 10 LTL carriers use our equipment to handle their trucking needs while moving goods across our great nation.

Reach out to us today and discover more about our line of world class couplings, pintle hitches, and jacks for you and your team.