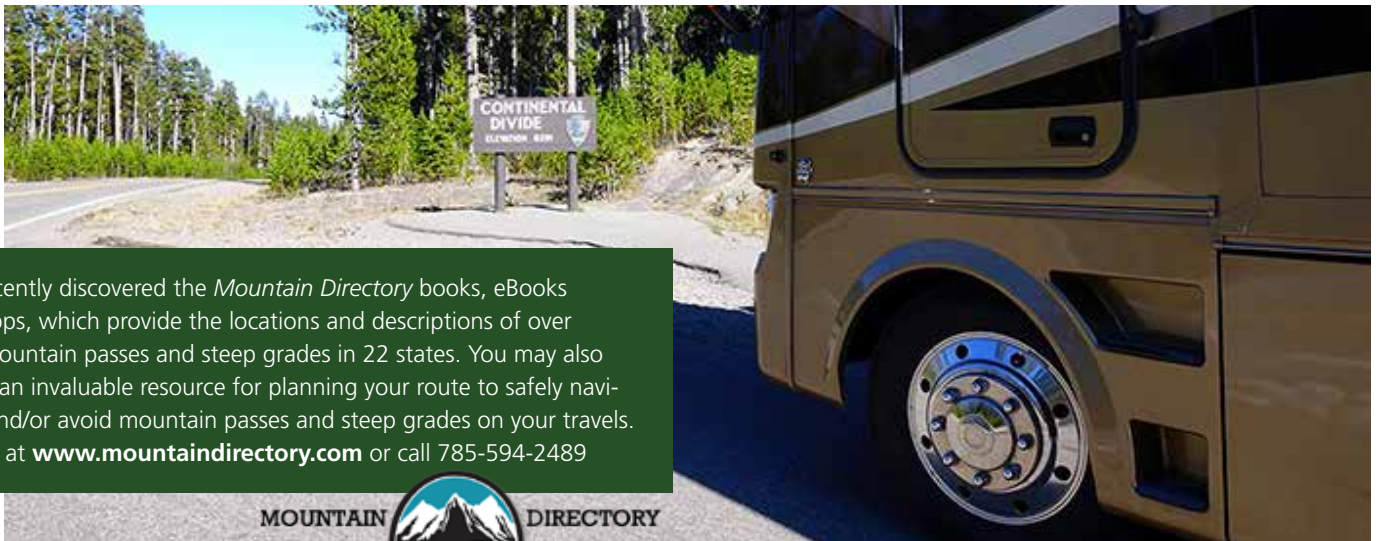




Tips

Helpful Hints, Ideas and Solutions for Today's RVer

- Opinions, advice and information contained in "Tips" are offered solely to inform members about matters that may be of assistance or interest to them. Material is compiled from submissions by Escapees members who do their own research. Escapees RV Club accepts no responsibility for what is expressed here by any person, group or company.
- E-mailed submissions can be sent to departmentseeditor@escapees.com. Because of the large volume of material, we may not acknowledge receipt of material. If accepted, submissions will be edited for magazine style and formatting.



We recently discovered the *Mountain Directory* books, eBooks and apps, which provide the locations and descriptions of over 700 mountain passes and steep grades in 22 states. You may also find it an invaluable resource for planning your route to safely navigate and/or avoid mountain passes and steep grades on your travels. Online at www.mountaindirectory.com or call 785-594-2489



9 Tips for Driving Your RV on Steep Grades

Be Patient—Accept that you're going to be driving slowly. Other drivers will expect you to driving slow.

Use Hazard Lights—As a good safety precaution, anytime you are driving 20 to 30 mph below the posted speed limit, turn on your hazard lights to alert other drivers.

Downshift Before Ascending—Before you start up the hill, downshift to a lower gear for extra power.

Use Tow Haul Mode—Put your transmission in "Tow Haul Mode," which uses different gear shifting to keep the engine in a more optimal range.

Descend Slowly—When preparing to go down the mountain pass, bring your speed way down (even as low as 30 mph, depending on the length and steepness of grade) before you begin your descent, and stay in "Tow Haul Mode." This allows you to use more engine braking and gives you room to increase your speed safely. (If you start driving down the hill at a high speed and try to come down to a lower speed, it's going to be a lot harder on your brakes.)

Downshift Before Descending—If the RV doesn't automatically downshift itself when going downhill, firmly press the

brake to force the transmission to downshift or manually select a lower gear. This will increase your engine speed (and rpm), so the engine will be doing some of the braking for you, minimizing the amount of time you need to use your brakes.

Minimize Braking—When braking, aim to press the pedal for only 15 to 20 seconds each time and allow time in between so you don't cook your brakes. The last thing you want is hot, mushy brakes when you need them.

Don't Overwork It—There's no sense in working your RV too hard with a screaming engine or overheating brakes. Take it nice and slow and you'll get better longevity on your vehicle.

Enjoy the Drive—There's nothing better than the expansive views from the top of a tall hill or mountain, so take your time, relax, enjoy the drive and beautiful scenery.

Remember, RVs are heavy vehicles and you have a lot riding in them. Use caution, be patient and stay safe and slow. If you're "white knuckling it," you're probably not being safe.

You can view more of our tips on our online blog at rvlove.com/start-here/tips-checklists.

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