



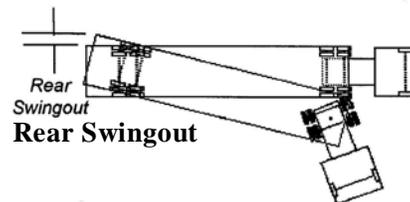
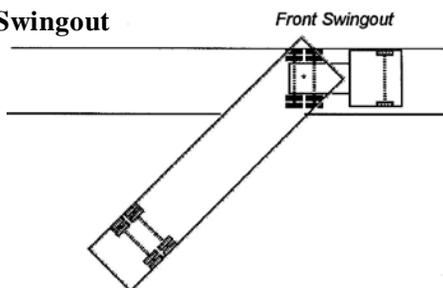
Trailer Tail-Swing Awareness

Focus- What is trailer tail swing and why is it important? Trailer tail swing is the path that the rear bumper of the trailer takes, based on the overhang produced by the position of the tandem axles and how sharp the turn is. It is important to be aware of how much tail swing the trailer has to avoid hitting obstacles, like cars, poles, etc., in a tight turn. This overhang can swing out several feet during a turn and it is always in your blind spot.

Anticipate and Adjust- On 48 ft. and 53 ft. trailers, tail swing can be necessary to allow you to make a load weight legal. The further forward the tandem axles are, the tighter the turn that can be made, but the greater the arc of the bumper will be. At the 40 ft. mark, there is 10 ft. of trailer overhang behind the tandems on a 53 ft. trailer. Also on a 53 ft. trailer, 10 ft. is the least amount of overhang, as it is the maximum position to the rear of the trailer that the tandems can be slid in "Bridge Law" states, like California. On a 48 ft. trailer, where drivers are more likely to run around with the tandems forward, the overhang can be much greater, especially with liftgate, increasing the danger of the swing. A 28 ft. pup trailer has the least amount of danger, as the axle is as close to the rear bumper as possible, minimizing tail swing completely. A 2-axle tractor can also increase swing danger, as it will turn sharper and quicker than a 3-axle tractor, which can also add to the amount of tail swing arc distance.

Correct- Always minimize the amount of tail swing your trailer has, as much as possible. This will also minimize the danger associated with turns. To do this, only move the tandems as far forward as necessary to make the weight legal. When the tandems must be forward, be aware of tail swing and allow room for it, during turns. Since the tandems are the pivot point, they must be at least 3 feet away from an obstacle in the swing area, but as much as the turn will safely allow. On a right turn, the swing area will be on the driver or oncoming traffic lane side, and on the passenger or curb side for a left turn. If you are right next to parked cars and make a left turn, the trailer bumper will swing out and hit any cars in the swing path, based on overhang and tightness of the turn. Tail swing is also a reason U-turns, the tightest turn a trailer can make, are so dangerous because any overhang swing is maximized.

Front Swingout



Talk- Speak with your Manager and fellow drivers about any questions you have or known location issues that you may come across, regarding tail swing safety. **Tail swing demonstration videos can also be found on YouTube.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5Rr9tXqFmM> is a good example.