

## **Towing a Trailer (cont'd)**

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### **Hitches**

Use only a hitch recommended by your Honda dealer. The hitch should be bolted securely to the car and installed by a qualified technician. Do not use a hitch designed for temporary installation and never use one that attaches only to the bumper.

### **Trailer Brakes and Safety Chains**

The Honda Automobile Division recommends that trailers equipped with brakes should conform to any applicable federal and state/provinces regulations. When using a trailer equipped with electric brakes, a trailer brake controller that connects to the car's electrical system is recommended. Installing a brake controller that connects to the car's brake hydraulic system could result in brake fluid contamination or leaks. A safety chain must always be used between the car and the trailer. Leave sufficient slack in the chain so that it does not bind in sharp turns. The chain should cross under the trailer tongue to prevent the tongue from dropping to the ground.

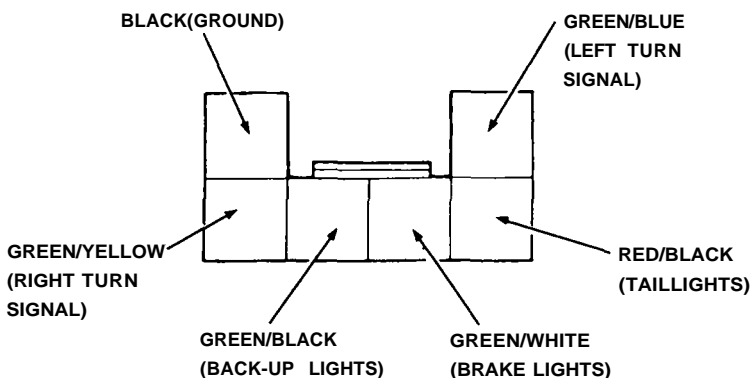
### **Tires**

Make sure your car's tires are properly inflated. Adjust tire pressure to the recommended tire pressure indicated on the label attached to the driver's door jamb. The trailer tires should be of the proper size, load rating and inflated to the pressure recommended by the trailer manufacturer.

### **Trailer Lights**

Trailer lights must comply with federal, state/provinces and local regulations. See your local recreational vehicle dealer or rental agency for the correct type of lighting and wiring for your trailer. Check for correct operation of the turn signals and stop lights each time you hitch up.

**A trailer lighting connector is provided behind the left garnish by the taillight access door in the trunk. The wiring color codes are described on the next page.**



To connect your car's taillights to a trailer, an electrical converter must be installed in the car. Your car has separate bulbs for brake (red) and turn signal lights (amber), while most trailers use the same bulb for brake and turn signal lights. A converter, available at most trailer supply stores, should be installed according to the instructions supplied by the converter manufacturer.

For information regarding trailer hitch and trailer electrical wiring availability, contact your Honda dealer or American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (for US cars), or Honda Canada (for Canada cars). See page 83 for American Honda and Honda Canada addresses.

**CAUTION:**

**Connections to your car's electrical system should be made by your Honda dealer or a qualified electrician. Improper installation may damage your vehicle's electrical system and cause a malfunction of the lights.**

**Break-in Schedule**

Do not tow a trailer during the 600 miles (1,000 km) break-in period: see page 2.

**Maintenance**

If you tow a trailer, your vehicle will require more frequent maintenance due to the additional load. Refer to the "Maintenance schedule under severe driving conditions" on page 104 for specific information.

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### Before Towing

With the car and trailer completely loaded and parked on a level surface, confirm that the tongue loading is correct. If the car has an abnormal nose-up or nose-down attitude, check for improper cargo distribution. Check also for excessive cargo weight, worn suspension or other causes and correct the problem before driving. Be sure the cargo is secured so it will not shift while driving. Check that your rearview mirrors conform to any federal, state/provinces, or local regulations. If not, install rearview mirrors designed for towing. Before towing a trailer, practice turning, stopping, and reversing with a trailer in an area away from traffic until you learn the technique.

### Towing Safety

#### **▲ WARNING**

- **Stopping distance will be increased when towing a trailer. For each 10 mph (16 km/h) of speed, allow at least two car lengths between you and the vehicle ahead. Avoid sudden braking which may cause trailer jackknifing and loss of control.**
- **Avoid jerky starts and rapid acceleration. If your car has a manual transmission, always start out in first gear and release the clutch at moderate engine rpm.**
- **Avoid rapid lane changing and sharp turns. The trailer could hit your car in a tight turn. Slow down before making a turn. Remember, the total length of your car plus trailer will require a wider turning circle.**
- **Crosswinds may adversely affect handling of your car and trailer. Use the rearview mirrors frequently to warn you of approaching large vehicles that may pass you causing your car and trailer to sway. When being passed, firmly grip the steering wheel and be prepared to reduce speed immediately but gradually. Never increase speed. Steer straight ahead.**
- **Towing a trailer in bad weather will magnify any difficulty in controlling the car caused by the weather itself. Avoid sudden maneuvers: slow down and use extra caution.**
- **Be careful when passing other vehicles. Passing requires considerable distance because of the added weight and length of your trailer.**

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**CAUTION:**

- **Before starting out, check the operation of the lights and all car/trailer connections. After driving a short distance, stop and recheck the lights and connections.**
- **Reversing is difficult and requires practice. While backing-up, the trailer may pivot off-course. To correct for this, grip the bottom of the steering wheel and move your hand to the left to move the trailer to the left; or to the right to move the trailer to the right. Turn the steering wheel a little at a time, and keep the speed very low. Have someone guide you when backing.**
- **To help prevent overheating of the brakes, shift into a lower gear to make use of engine braking before descending steep or long grades. Do not make sudden downshifts.**
- **Pay strict attention to the coolant temperature gauge when going up hills. Because of the added load of the trailer, your car's engine may overheat on hot days. Turning off the air conditioner will reduce the load on the cooling system.**
- **On cars equipped with automatic transmission.**
  - **Do not hold the car stationary on an incline by using the accelerator pedal; this can cause the transmission fluid to overheat. Instead, use the handbrake or footbrake.**
  - **When towing trailers, avoid high transmission fluid temperatures (caused by the transmission frequently shifting between 3rd and 4th gears) by driving in D<sub>3</sub>.**

**NOTE:**

Be sure to check state/provinces and local laws concerning maximum speed or other driving restrictions for cars towing trailers. If you are driving across several states/provinces, or countries, check each state's or country's requirements before leaving home, because restrictions may vary.

**Parking with a Trailer**

Whenever parking your car on an incline with a trailer attached, place and seat chocks at each wheel of the car and trailer. This is in addition to the normal parking preparations of firmly applying the parking brake and placing the transmission in first or reverse (manual transmission) or P (automatic transmission).

**CAUTION:**

**Parking on an incline is not recommended and should be done only if it cannot be avoided. Follow all precautions mentioned above and turn the wheels to point towards a curb if facing downhill, away from a curb if facing uphill. When leaving an inclined parking place, move the car slightly to unseat the chocks. Then while keeping the foot brakes firmly applied, have an assistant remove the chocks.**

## Maintenance Schedule and Records

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Your Honda automobile must be properly maintained to ensure that it is in peak operating condition and the emission levels are within the standards set by the Federal Clean Air Act\*\*.

The following instructions and maintenance procedures are based on the assumption that your car will be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was designed:

1. To carry passengers and cargo within the load limits shown on the label on the driver's door jamb.
2. To be driven on reasonable road surfaces within legal limits.
3. To generally be driven daily over a distance of several miles (kilometers).
4. To use gasoline from pumps labeled unleaded, with a pump octane number of 86 or higher.

### NOTE:

Failures which occur due to a lack of maintenance will not be covered under warranty.

The Required Maintenance Schedule\* specifies all maintenance required to keep your car in peak operating condition. Work should be done by a Honda dealer but may be done by any qualified service facility or individual who is competent in this type of work.

### US Cars:

**Maintenance, replacement, or repair of emission control devices and systems may be done by any automotive repair establishment or individual using parts that are "certified" to EPA standards.**

After the maintenance has been done, be sure to have your servicing dealer complete the Maintenance Record on pages 103 — 105. All required maintenance is considered normal owner operating cost and you will be charged for it by your dealer.

\* For vehicles sold in California, maintenance operations indicated by \*3 on page 102 are recommended by the manufacturer. Other maintenance operations are required by California regulations and condition the emission warranty.

\*\*In Canada, Schedule E (S1101, S1102, S1103, and S1105) of the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standard, legislated in 1971 and as amended.

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Check the following items at each fuel stop:

1. Engine oil level.
2. Radiator coolant level.

Check the following items periodically:

1. Brakes: for braking efficiency, brake pedal travel and hydraulic fluid level.
2. Lights: for operation of headlights, taillights, side marker lights, stoplights, turn signals, and back-up lights.
3. Tires: for correct pressures (including spare), inspect for cuts and uneven or excessive wear. Rotate every 7,500 miles (12,000 km) in the pattern shown on page 130 .
4. Steering: for excessive play or vibration while driving.
5. Exhaust system: for leaks or loose mounts.
6. Wipers: for operation of windshield wipers and washer, and condition of wiper blades.
7. Seat belts: for condition of fabric and buckles, and operation of the restraint mechanism.
8. Battery condition.

The Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) must be inspected by an authorized Honda dealer ten years after the date of manufacture printed on the certification label attached to the left rear door jamb. To serve as a reminder, note the date of manufacture and SRS inspection date here:

- Manufactured: \_\_\_\_\_
- SRS Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_  
(add ten years to date of manufacture)

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