

## Towing Your Vehicle Behind a Motorhome

---

Your CR-V can be towed behind a motorhome at legal highway speeds up to 65 mph (100 km/h). Do not exceed 65 mph (100 km/h). Otherwise, severe transmission damage will occur. To avoid damage to the 4WD system, it must be towed with all four wheels on the ground (flat towing).

When purchasing a tow bar, make sure you select a reputable manufacturer and installer. Follow the manufacturer's attachment instructions carefully.

After attaching the tow bar to your motorhome, do the following to prepare your CR-V for "flat towing":

### **5-speed Manual Transmission**

- Make sure the transmission is filled to the correct level (see page 208). Do not overfill.
- Release the parking brake.

- Shift the transmission to Neutral.
- Leave the key in the ignition switch and the ignition switch in ACCESSORY (I) so the steering wheel does not lock. Make sure the radio and any items plugged into the accessory power sockets are turned off so you do not run down the battery.

### **Automatic Transmission**

When preparing to tow your CR-V, check the transmission fluid level (see page 207 ). Maintaining the correct level is very important. *Do not overfill*. Do the following every day immediately before you begin towing. Follow the procedure exactly. Otherwise, severe automatic transmission damage will occur.

- Start the engine.
- Press on the brake pedal. Shift the lever through all the positions (P, R, N, D, 2,1)
- Shift to D, then to N. Let the engine run for three minutes, then turn off the engine.
- Release the parking brake.
- Leave the ignition switch in ACCESSORY (I) so the steering wheel does not lock. Make sure the radio and any items plugged into the accessory power sockets are turned off so you do not run down the battery.

### **Extended Towing**

If you tow more than 300 miles (500 km) in one day, you should repeat the above procedure at least every 300 miles (500 km), (when you stop for fuel, etc.)

### NOTICE

*The steering system can be damaged if the steering wheel is locked. Leave the ignition switch in Accessory (I), and make sure The steering wheel turns freely before you begin towing.*

### NOTICE

*Improper towing preparation will damage the transmission. Follow the above procedure exactly. If you cannot shift the transmission or start the engine, your vehicle must be transported on a flat-bed or trailer.*

If you low your CR-V and it is equipped with an automatic transmission, replace the transmission fluid every two years or 30,000 miles (50,000 km), whichever comes first.

## Off-Highway Guidelines

---

### General Information

Your CR-V has been designed primarily for use on pavement. But its higher ground clearance allows you to occasionally travel on unpaved roads, to campgrounds, picnic sites, and similar locations. It is not designed for trailblazing, mountain climbing, or other challenging off-road activities.

If you decide to drive on unpaved roads, you will find that it requires somewhat different driving skills. Your CR-V will also handle somewhat differently than it does on pavement. So be sure to read this owner's manual, pay special attention to the precautions and tips in this section, and get acquainted with your vehicle before you leave the pavement.



### Important Safety Precautions

Remember that your CR-V has higher ground clearance and a higher center of gravity than passenger vehicles designed for use only on pavement. This means your vehicle can more easily tip or roll over if you make abrupt turns or drive on slopes.

Utility vehicles have a significantly higher rollover rate than other types of vehicles. To avoid loss of control or rollover, be sure to follow all recommendations and precautions on page 152 and in this section.

Seat belts are just as important off-road as on paved roads. Wherever you drive, make sure you and your passengers always wear seat belts. If children or infants are along for the ride, see that they are properly secured. In a rollover crash, an unbelted person is more likely to die than a person wearing a seat belt.

### WARNING

Improperly operating this vehicle on or off-pavement can cause an accident or rollover in which you and your passengers could be seriously injured or killed.

- Follow all instructions and guidelines in the owner's manual.
- Keep your speed low and don't drive faster than conditions permit.

On many unpaved roads, you won't find lane markers, traffic signals, or signs to warn you of possible trouble ahead. It's up to you to continually assess the situation and drive within limits.

The route presents limits (some roads are too steep and bumpy for example). You have limits (in driving skills and comfort). And your vehicle also has limits (traction, stability, and power, for instance).

Driving off-highway can be hazardous if you fail to recognize limits and take proper precautions. For example, you can have an accident or rollover during maneuvers such as turning, driving on hills, or over large obstacles.

Be sure to store cargo properly, and do not exceed your CR-V's cargo or trailer load limits (see pages 149 and 170).

## Off-Highway Guidelines

---

### **Driving Tips**

The following pages contain practical tips on basic off-highway operation.

#### ***Check Out Your Vehicle***

Driving off-highway can be hard on a vehicle. Before you leave the pavement, be sure all scheduled maintenance and service has been done, and that you have inspected your vehicle. Pay special attention to the condition of the tires, and use a gauge to check the tire pressures.

After you return to the pavement, carefully inspect your vehicle to make sure there is no damage that could make driving it unsafe. Check the tires for damage and for proper pressure.

### ***Controlling Speed***

Off-highway, the general rule is to keep your speed low. Of course, you'll need enough speed to keep moving forward. But at higher speeds, you have less time to assess conditions and make good decisions. There's also a greater chance of sliding if you brake or turn too quickly on wet soil, gravel, or ice. In any situation, never go faster than conditions allow.

### ***Accelerating and Braking***

For better traction on all surfaces, accelerate slowly and gradually build up speed. If you try to start too fast on wet soil, mud, snow, or ice, you might not have enough traction to get underway. You may even dig yourself into a hole.

Generally, the best off-pavement braking technique is to gently depress the brake pedal, then increase pressure as more braking is needed. Avoid hard braking. Keep in mind that you will usually need more time and distance to brake to a stop on unpaved surfaces.

Test your brakes from time to time to make sure they are operating properly. This will also give you a feel for how much traction you have on a given surface.

### **Turning**

Off-highway, the basic turning-technique is to drive at low speed and gradually adjust the amount of steering to suit the surface.

You should have no problem making sharp turns at low speed on level ground. But never make an abrupt turn at higher speeds, on or off pavement. With a higher center of gravity, your vehicle can more easily tip or roll over.

### **Driving on Slopes**

Before driving up or down a hill, stop and assess the situation. If you can't clearly see all road conditions (good traction, no bumps, holes or other obstacles, a safe way out, etc.) walk the slope before you drive on it. If you have any doubt about whether you can safely drive on the slope, *don't do it*. Find another route.

If you are driving up a hill and find that you cannot continue (because of the steepness, a large obstacle, etc.), *do not try to turn around*. Your vehicle could roll over. Slowly back down the hill, following the same route you took up the hill.

### **Avoiding Obstacles**

Bumps, holes, rocks, and other obstacles can be hazardous. Debris in the road can damage your suspension or other components. Even small rocks can cut your tires.

More important, because your vehicle has a high center of gravity, driving over a large obstacle, or allowing a wheel to drop into a deep hole, can cause your vehicle to tip or roll over.

Drive slow enough to observe obstacles ahead and maneuver around them. If you can't avoid a serious obstacle, turn around and look for a better route.

## Off-Highway Guidelines

---



### **If You Encounter Water**

Avoid driving through deep water. If you encounter water in your route (a small stream or large puddle, for example), evaluate it carefully before going ahead. Make sure it is shallow, flowing slowly, and has firm ground underneath. If you are not sure of the depth or the ground, turn around and find another route.

Driving through deep water can also damage your vehicle. The water can get into the transmission and differential, diluting the lubricant and causing an eventual failure. It can also wash the grease out of the wheel bearings.

### **If You Get Stuck**

Avoid driving on soft sand, deep mud, or other surfaces where you could get stuck. If you do happen to get stuck because of inclement weather

or other conditions, choose a safe and appropriate course of action.

You should never use a jack to try getting unstuck. A jack only works on firm, level ground. Also, your vehicle could easily slip off the jack and hurt you or someone else.

### **4-Wheel Drive Vehicles**

If you spin the wheels excessively trying to get unstuck, you may overheat the components of the 4-wheel drive system. If this happens, the 4-wheel drive system shuts off and only the front wheels receive power. If this happens, stop and allow everything to cool down. The 4-wheel drive system will work again after its temperature drops.

If you slip the clutch for a long time while trying to get unstuck, you may overheat and damage it.