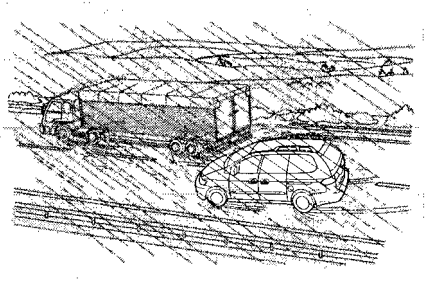
Traction — Check your tires frequently for wear and proper pressure. Both are important in preventing "hydroplaning" (loss of traction on a wet surface). In the winter, mount snow tires on all four wheels for the best handling.

Watch road conditions carefully, they can change from moment to moment. Wet leaves can be as slippery as ice. "Clear" roads can have patches of ice. Driving conditions can be very hazardous when the outside temperature is near freezing. The road surface can become covered with areas of water puddles mixed with areas of ice, so your traction can change without warning.

Be careful when downshifting. If traction is low, you can lock up the drive wheels for a moment and cause a skid.

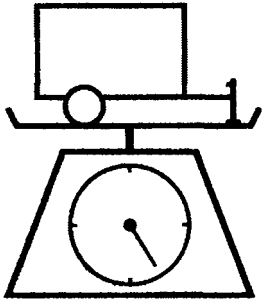


Be very cautious when passing, or being passed by other vehicles. The spray from large vehicles reduces your visibility, and the wind buffeting can cause you to lose control.

Towing a Trailer

Your Odyssey has been designed to tow a trailer, as well as for carrying passengers and their cargo.

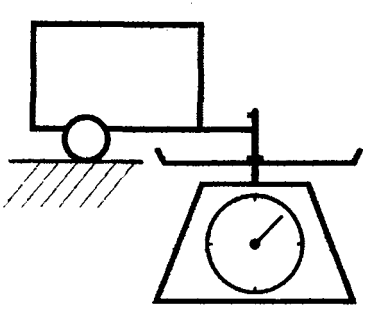
To safely tow a trailer, you must observe the load limits, use the proper equipment, and follow the guidelines in this section.



Load Limits

- **Total Trailer Weight:** As shown in the load limits table (See page 227), how much weight you can tow is limited by the number of occupants in your vehicle and whether or not you have installed a transmission fluid cooler. (See page 229 for information about transmission fluid coolers.)

Towing a load that is too heavy can seriously affect your vehicle's handling and performance. It can also damage the engine and drivetrain.



- **Tongue Load:** The weight that the tongue of a fully-loaded trailer puts on the hitch should be approximately 10 percent of the trailer weight. Too little tongue load can make the trailer unstable and cause it to sway. Too much tongue load reduces front-tire traction and steering control.

Number of Occupants*	Maximum Total Trailer Weight	
	With Transmission Fluid Cooler	Without Transmission Fluid Cooler
2	3,500 lbs (1,580 kg)	2,000 lbs (900 kg)
3	3,350 lbs (1,520 kg)	1,850 lbs (830 kg)
4	3,200 lbs (1,450 kg)	1,700 lbs (770 kg)
5	3,050 lbs (1,380 kg)	1,550 lbs (700 kg)
6	2,900 lbs (1,310 kg)	1,400 lbs (630 kg)
7	850 lbs (385 kg)**	850 lbs (385 kg)**

* : Including driver. Based on 150 lbs (70 kg) per occupant.

** : Weight limited to avoid exceeding rear GAWR (see page 228).

To achieve a proper tongue load, start by loading 60 percent of the load toward the front of the trailer and 40 percent toward the rear, then re-adjust the load as needed.

CONTINUED

Towing a Trailer

- **Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR):**
  The total weight of the vehicle, all occupants, all cargo, *and* the tongue load must not exceed:
  5,565 lbs (2,525 kg)

- **Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR):**
  The total weight of the vehicle, all occupants, all cargo, and the tongue load must not exceed:

  2,775 lbs (1,260 kg)
  on the front axle

  2,840 lbs (1,290 kg)
  on the rear axle

- **Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR):**
  The total weight of the vehicle, all occupants and cargo, and the trailer and everything in or on it, must not exceed:

  8,160 lbs (3,700 kg)
  with transmission fluid cooler

  6,660 lbs (3,025 kg)
  without transmission fluid cooler

⚠ WARNING

Exceeding load limits or improperly loading your vehicle and trailer can cause a crash in which you can be seriously injured or killed.

Check the loading of your vehicle and trailer carefully before starting to drive.

Checking Loads

The best way to confirm that vehicle and trailer weights are within limits is to have them checked at a public scale.

Using a suitable scale or a special tongue load gauge, check the tongue load the first time you set up a towing combination (a fully-loaded vehicle and trailer), then recheck the tongue load whenever the conditions change.

Towing Equipment and Accessories

Towing can require a variety of equipment, depending on the size of your trailer, how it will he used, and how much load you are towing.

Discuss your needs with your trailer sales or rental agency, and follow the guidelines in the rest of this section. Also make sure that all equipment is properly installed and that it meets federal, state, province, and local regulations.

Hitches

Any hitch used on your vehicle must be properly bolted to the underbody, using the six threaded holes provided. A hitch designed especially for your Odyssey can be obtained from your Honda dealer.

Weight Distributing Hitch

If the total trailer weight is more than 2,000 lbs (900 kg), you must also use a weight distributing hitch. This device transfers weight from the vehicle's rear wheels to the front wheels, and to the trailer's wheels. Carefully follow the hitch maker's instructions for proper installation and adjustment.

Safety Chain

Always use a safety chain. Make sure that it is secured to both the trailer and hitch, and that it cross under the tongue so it can catch the trailer if it becomes unhitched. Leave enough slack to allow the trailer to turn corners easily, but do not let the chain drag on the ground.

Sway Control

If the total trailer weight exceeds 2,000 lbs (900 kg), you should install a sway control device to minimize swaying that can occur in crosswinds and in normal and emergency driving maneuvers. Your trailer maker can tell you what kind of sway control you need and how to install it.

Transmission Fluid Cooler

If the total trailer weight is more than 2,000 lbs (900 kg), you must also have a transmission fluid cooler installed. This device will help prevent transmission overheating, which could cause serious damage. A transmission fluid cooler designed for your Odyssey can be obtained from your Honda dealer.

CONTINUED

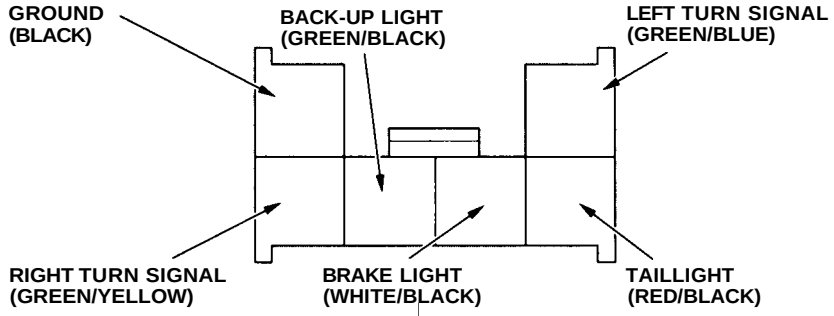
Towing a Trailer

Trailer Brakes

Honda recommends that any trailer having a total weight of 1,000 lbs (450 kg) or more be equipped with its own electric or surge-type brakes.

If you choose electric brakes, be sure they are electronically actuated. Do not attempt to tap into your vehicle's hydraulic system. No matter how successful it may seem, any attempt to attach trailer brakes to your vehicle's hydraulic system will lower braking effectiveness and create a potential hazard.

Trailer Lights



Your vehicle has a trailer lighting connector located behind the left side panel in the cargo area. Refer to the drawing above for the wiring color code and purpose of each pin.

To use the trailer lighting connector, you will need a wiring harness and converter. This comes with the Honda hitch (see page 229), or it may be obtained separately from your dealer.

If you use a non-Honda trailer lighting harness and converter, you can get the connector and pins that mate with the connector in your vehicle from your Honda dealer.

Since lighting and wiring vary in trailer type and brand, you should also have a qualified mechanic install a suitable connector between the vehicle and the trailer.

Spare Vehicle Tire

When towing a trailer, you should carry a full-size wheel and tire as a spare in case you have a flat. If you use the compact spare tire that came with the vehicle, it may adversely affect vehicle handling. See page 323 for information on proper tire size, and page 309 for information on how to store a full-size tire. When storing a full-size spare tire in the trailer, follow the trailer maker's instructions.

Additional Trailer Equipment

Many states and Canadian provinces require special outside mirrors when towing a trailer. Even if they don't, you should install special mirrors if you cannot clearly see behind you, or if the trailer creates a blind spot.

Ask your trailer sales or rental agency if any other items are recommended or required for your towing situation.

Pre-Tow Checklist

When preparing to tow, and before driving away, be sure to check the following:

- The vehicle has been properly serviced, and the tires, brakes, suspension, and cooling system are in good operating condition.
- All weights and loads are within limits (see pages 227 and 228).
- The hitch, safety chains, and any other attachments are secure.
- All items on and in the trailer are properly secured and cannot shift while you drive.
- The lights and brakes on your vehicle and the trailer are working properly.
- Your vehicle tires and spare are properly inflated (see page 335), and the trailer tires and spare are inflated as recommended by the trailer maker.
- You may want to fill the fuel tank with premium fuel. Premium fuel provides improved performance.

CONTINUED

Towing a Trailer

Driving Safely With a Trailer

The added weight, length, and height of a trailer will affect your vehicle's handling and performance, so driving with a trailer requires some special driving skills and techniques.

For your safety and the safety of others, take time to practice driving maneuvers before heading for the open road, and follow the guidelines discussed below.

Towing Speeds and Gears

Drive slower than normal in all driving situations, and obey posted speed limits for vehicles with trailers. Use the D4 position when towing a trailer on level roads. D3 is the proper shift lever position to use when towing a trailer in hilly terrain. (See ***"Driving on Hills"*** in the next column for additional gear information.)

Making Turns and Braking

Make turns more slowly and wider than normal. The trailer tracks a smaller arc than your vehicle, and it can hit or run over something the vehicle misses. Allow more time and distance for braking. Do not brake or turn suddenly as this could cause the trailer to jackknife or turn over.

Driving on Hills

When climbing hills, closely watch your temperature gauge. If it nears the red mark, turn the air conditioning off, reduce speed and, if necessary, pull to the side of the road to let the engine cool.

If the automatic transmission shifts frequently between 3rd and 4th gears while going up a hill, shift to D3.

If you must stop when facing uphill, use the foot brake or parking brake. Do not try to hold the vehicle in place by pressing on the accelerator, as this can cause the automatic transmission to overheat.

When driving down hills, reduce your speed and shift down to 2nd gear. Do not "ride" the brakes, and remember it will take longer to slow down and stop when towing a trailer.

Handling Crosswinds and Buffeting

Crosswinds and air turbulence caused by passing trucks can disrupt your steering and cause trailer swaying. When being passed by a large vehicle, keep a constant speed and steer straight ahead. Do not try to make quick steering or braking corrections.

Backing Up

Always drive slowly and have someone guide you when backing up. Grip the *bottom* of the steering wheel; then turn the wheel to the left to get the trailer to move to the left, and turn the wheel right to move the trailer to the right.

Parking

Follow all normal precautions when parking, including putting the transmission in Park and firmly setting the parking brake. Also, place wheel chocks at each of the trailer's tires.