

## Tires, Fuel Economy

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When obtaining wheels for any reason from any other source, the replacement wheels should be equal in load capacity, inflation pressure capacity, diameter, width, offset and mounting configuration to those originally installed on your vehicle. A wheel of the wrong size or type may adversely affect load carrying capacity, wheel and bearing life, brake cooling, speedometer/odometer calibration, stopping ability, headlight aim, bumper height, vehicle ground clearance, and tire or tire chain clearance to the body and chassis. Replacement with used wheels is not advised: they may have been subjected to harsh treatment or very high mileage and could fail without warning.

Installing wheels and/or tires that have a higher load carrying limit than those that originally came on your vehicle does not increase the GAWR or GVWR of the vehicle.

### **Driving for Best Fuel Economy**

How, where, and when you drive all affect how many miles/kilometers you can get from a gallon/liter of fuel. The careful attention you give your vehicle as far as maintenance and repairs will also help fuel economy.

### ***Fuel Selection***

Use only unleaded gasoline meeting federal government regulations. The federal government specifies the minimum octane rating number of unleaded gasoline. Unleaded gasoline must be used for proper emissions control system operation. It will also minimize spark plug fouling. The use of leaded gasoline can damage the emissions control system and could result in loss of warranty coverage.

### ***"Jackrabbit" Starts***

You can save fuel (and prolong engine and tire life) by avoiding fast starts away from lights and stop signs.

### ***Stop-and-Go Driving***

Frequent stop-and-go driving during a trip will cut down on your miles per gallon (kilometers per liter). Plan even your short shopping trips to take advantage of through streets to avoid traffic lights. Pace your driving to avoid unplanned stops.

### ***Excessive Idling***

An idling engine uses fuel, too. If you're faced with more than a few minutes wait and you're not in traffic, it is better to turn off the key and start the engine again later.

### ***Repetitive Harsh Stopping***

Harsh stops can also waste fuel; instead of moving the car, the energy is wasted as heat in braking. Energy in the form of fuel is also needed to accelerate back to driving speed.

### ***Lubricants***

A well-lubricated vehicle means less friction between moving parts. This manual lists the proper lubrication intervals in the "Care and Maintenance" section.

### ***Air Cleaner***

Your vehicle gets its power from a mixture of fuel and air. The air is taken into the engine through the air cleaner, so it's important to replace the air cleaner filter at required intervals. See "Care and Maintenance." A dirty air cleaner filter reduces engine performance and can waste fuel.

### ***Air Conditioning***

If your vehicle has air conditioning, push the button to turn it off when not needed. The air conditioning compressor is not on in this position and the reduced engine load can improve fuel economy.

### ***Tuned Engine***

An engine that is properly maintained will provide better fuel economy than one that is not. One misfiring spark plug will cut fuel economy significantly, and will make a difference in the amount of pollution emitted from our vehicle.

### ***Excessive Weight***

Fuel economy is related to the work the engine must do. The heavier the load, the more fuel it takes to run your vehicle. Keep

weight to a minimum by removing unnecessary luggage or cargo.

### ***Tire Inflation***

Underinflation not only causes needless tire wear but can also waste fuel. It's a good idea to check tire pressure often and keep your tires inflated to the pressures shown on the tire placard located on the driver's door lock pillar.

### ***Wheel Alignment***

Improper alignment will cause the front tires to roll at an angle that will result in faster tire wear. It takes power to overcome this improper alignment, which, in turn, wastes fuel.

### ***Use of 4-Wheel Drive***

In normal driving, shift the transfer lever to "2H," and disengage the hubs.

## Three-Way Catalytic Converter, Operation in Foreign Countries

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### Three-Way Catalytic Converter

The three-way catalytic converter is an emissions control device added to the exhaust system to reduce exhaust gas pollutants.

The converter contains a ceramic material coated with noble metal catalysts. To prevent contamination of the catalysts, unleaded gasoline must be used. Unleaded gasoline also reduces combustion chamber deposits and exhaust system corrosion.

The three-way catalytic converter requires the use of unleaded gasoline. Use of leaded gasoline will cause the converter to lose its effectiveness.

### To Help Prevent Damage

1. Keep your engine properly maintained. Engine malfunctions involving the

electrical, electronic fuel injection or ignition systems may result in unusually high converter and exhaust system temperatures. Do not keep driving your vehicle if you detect engine misfire, noticeable loss of performance, or other unusual operating conditions. Have it serviced promptly. A properly maintained engine will minimize malfunctions that could damage the converter. It will also help provide good emissions control and fuel economy. (See the Maintenance Schedule on page [157](#) for information on inspecting and maintaining the engine, exhaust system and other components.)

2. Do not push or tow your vehicle to start it. This could damage the converter.

3. Do not park your vehicle over high grass, dry leaves or other combustible materials. The catalytic converter gets very hot and could set fire to these materials.

### Operation in Foreign Countries

Your vehicle is designed to operate on unleaded gasoline with an approximate octane rating of 91 based on the Research method.

If you plan to operate your vehicle outside the United States, its jurisdiction, or Canada, there is a possibility the fuels available in some countries will not meet the needs of your engine. Use of low octane-rated fuel may cause engine knocking or serious engine damage.

## Operation in Foreign Countries, Loading, Accessories, and Modifications

Use of leaded fuel in a vehicle with a catalytic converter may cause the converter to lose its effectiveness for emissions control.

It could also affect the warranty. If you must use leaded fuel in a vehicle designed for unleaded fuel, converter modification and different maintenance intervals will be required.

### Loading, Accessories, and Modifications

Your Passport has been designed to carry the driver, several passengers, and cargo. As long as you keep your vehicle well-maintained, you can safely carry cargo within the given load limit and loading guidelines.

However, exceeding the load limit or improperly loading cargo can seriously affect your vehicle's handling and stability. Non-Honda accessories, improper modifica-

tions, and poor maintenance can also seriously reduce the safety margin.

The following pages give more specific information on loading, accessories, and modifications.

### Loading

How much weight you put in your vehicle and how you distribute it are important to your safety. Anytime you drive with cargo you should be aware of the following information.

#### **WARNING**

Overloading or improper loading can affect handling and stability and cause a crash in which you can be hurt or killed.

Follow all load limits and other loading guidelines in this manual.

### **Load Limit**

The maximum load for your vehicle is:

**DX:** 1,005lb (457 kg)

**LX 2WD**

manual trans: 895 lb (407 kg)  
automatic trans: 840 lb (382 kg)

**LX 4WD and EX**

manual trans: 905 lb (410 kg)  
with optional P245/70R16 tires:  
930 lb (423 kg)

automatic trans: 850 lb (386 kg)  
with optional P245/70R16 tires:  
875 lb (398 kg)

This figure includes the total weight of all occupants, cargo, accessories, and, if you are towing a trailer, the tongue weight.

## Loading, Accessories, and Modifications

### **Loading Guidelines**

Where you store cargo and how well you secure it are important to your safety. Follow these guidelines whenever you carry cargo:

- Distribute cargo evenly on the floor of the cargo area, placing the heaviest items on the bottom and as far forward as possible.
- Secure all items so they cannot fly forward and injure you or your passengers if you brake hard or are involved in a collision.
- If you put cargo on the roof, use a Honda-approved rack, secure all items, and make sure the cargo does not exceed 100 pounds.
- Never exceed the load limits for the vehicle.

### **Accessories and Modifications**

Modifying your vehicle or using non-Honda accessories can make your vehicle unsafe. Before you make any modifications or add any accessories, be sure to read the following information.

#### **WARNING**

Improper accessories or modifications can affect your vehicle's handling, stability and performance, and cause a crash in which you can be hurt or killed.

Follow all instructions in this owner's manual regarding accessories and modifications.

#### **Accessories**

We recommend that you use only genuine Honda accessories that

have been designed and tested for your vehicle. Because Honda cannot test all other accessories, you must be personally responsible for proper selection, installation, and use of non-Honda accessories. For your safety, check with your dealer for assistance and follow these guidelines:

- Do not install attachments that raise the center of gravity or affect stability.
- Make sure the accessory does not obscure any lights or interfere with proper vehicle performance.
- Be sure electrical accessories do not exceed the vehicle's electrical system capacity.

#### **Modifications**

Your vehicle has been designed to provide the best combination of performance, mobility, and

## Modifications, Trailer Towing

comfort. Removing original equipment or modifying your vehicle in any way that would alter its design or operation could make it unsafe.

We particularly urge you not to install aftermarket "lift kits" or other devices designed to change the vehicle's suspension or ride height. Such devices can seriously impair handling and stability and cause you to lose control or roll over.

Modifying your vehicle could also void the warranty or make it illegal to drive.

### Trailer Towing

Your Honda vehicle is designed for passenger and cargo transportation. With the proper equipment installed, your vehicle can also tow a trailer under certain conditions, as detailed in

this section. Be sure to read this entire section and follow all requirements.

Towing a trailer will have an effect on handling, performance, braking, durability and fuel consumption.

#### **WARNING**

Improperly loading your vehicle and trailer can seriously affect the steering and braking performance, causing a crash in which you can be seriously injured.

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

Honda recommends that you do not tow a trailer with a new

Honda vehicle or one with a new power train component (engine, transmission, differential) for the first 500 miles.

For your safety and the safety of others, use equipment specifically designed for your vehicle. Improper towing equipment and improper installation of same can cause damage to your vehicle and may also result in personal injury.

Additional care and cautious driving habits are essential to trailer towing.

Do not exceed 45 mph or the posted towing speed limit, whichever is lower. Higher speed may cause loss of vehicle control.

Follow the recommendations in this manual and ask your Honda dealer for further details before you tow a trailer with your Passport.

## Trailer Towing

Towing a trailer affects vehicle maintenance requirements due to the additional load. More frequent maintenance intervals will be required to assure continued satisfaction with your vehicle. Consult your Honda dealer for recommended maintenance and service.

The following loading and weight limitations are recommended for your continued driving satisfaction and safety:

- The gross trailer weight (trailer weight plus cargo load) must never exceed the designed towing capacity of the vehicle. Exceeding the weight limit will cause damage to your vehicle and possibly result in personal injury.

Engine Models	Gross Trailer Weight
L4-2.6L engine	2,000 lb
V6-3.2L engine	3,500 lb
V6-3.2L engine	4,500 lb*

\*Additional equipment will be required, depending on the specific model/load combination. See "Trailer Hitches" in this section.

- The Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) is the combined weight of the unloaded vehicle, passengers, cargo, trailer hitch, trailer tongue load, and optional equipment. This value is indicated on the F.M.V.S.S. Certification Label on the driver's doorjamb.
- The Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) is also indicated on the Certification Label. The load on either the front or rear axle resulting from distribution of the gross vehicle weight on both axles must not exceed the values listed. Remember to account for additional equipment and tongue load.

- Tongue load should be between 9 percent and 11 percent of the total trailer weight. However, it should never exceed 450 pounds or 200 pounds, depending on the model.
- Never load a trailer with more weight in the rear than in the front. The front should be loaded with approximately 60 percent and the rear with approximately 40 percent of the total trailer load.
- Never exceed the maximum weight limits of the trailer or trailer towing equipment. Improper loading can result in damage to your vehicle and possible personal injury.
- Check the vehicle and trailer loading and the weights on each axle at a commercial scale or a highway patrol office equipped with a scale.

### Trailer Hitches

A Class 2 hitch kit (up to 3,500 lb) and a Class 3 hitch kit (up to 4,500 lb) are available from your Honda dealer.

*Use a trailer equipped with electric brakes and a "Weight Distributing Hitch Attachment" when the gross trailer weight exceeds 3,500 pounds.*

A special attachment that replaces the draw bar/ball assembly is used to distribute the proper weight to the front axle. It uses a pair of spring bars that are adjusted to accomplish the distribution of the weight.

Consult your trailer's manufacturer for assistance with selecting the proper weight distributing hitch attachment.

Check with a recreational vehicle dealer for additional required equipment. Have this equipment installed by a trained mechanic.

Improper equipment or installation can damage your vehicle and cause personal injury.

Do not use axle-mounted hitches or equipment not designed for your vehicle.

Do not make any modifications to the vehicle's exhaust, braking, or electrical system other than those that are shown in the instructions for the Honda Trailer Hitch Kit. Improper modifications can affect vehicle durability.

Periodic inspection of all added-on trailer towing equipment is necessary to assure continued safe operation.



## Trailer Towing

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### **Safety Chain**

Always use a suitable safety chain between your vehicle and the trailer.

Check with your trailer manufacturer for the required equipment. Cross the safety chains under the hitch and attach them to the trailer hitch hardware.

This will prevent the trailer from dropping to the ground in the event the hitch disengages. For proper use and installation, consult your trailer manufacturer.

### **Trailer Lights**

Trailer lights and equipment must comply with federal, state and local regulations. Check with your local recreational vehicle dealer for the requirements in your area. Use only equipment designed for your vehicle.

Improper equipment or installation can cause damage to your

vehicle's electrical system and affect your vehicle warranty. Consult your Honda Dealer for installation.

### **Tires**

Always check the condition of your vehicle's tires and trailers tires before operation. Replace worn or damaged tires before operation.

Inflate tire pressure to the recommended cold tire pressure indicated in the tire manufacturer's warranty booklet in the glove box packet.

Check the tire manufacturer's requirements when replacement tires are installed on your vehicle. Trailer tire condition, size, load rating, and proper inflation pressure should be in accordance with the tire manufacturer's specifications. Improper tire size and inflation can cause tire failure,

possibly resulting in vehicle damage and personal injury.

### **Trailer Brakes**

Trailers with a total weight of 1,000 pounds or more require trailer brakes. If your trailer is equipped with a braking system make sure it conforms to federal, state, and local equipment regulations.

There are no provisions in your vehicle to tap into its hydraulic braking system. Any attempt to attach the trailer's brakes to your vehicle's hydraulic braking system, no matter how successful it may seem, will lower braking effectiveness and create a potential hazard.

### **Equipment Check**

Before operating your vehicle, check all safety equipment to ensure safe operation. Be sure your vehicle is properly serviced to avoid mechanical failure.

## Trailer Towing, Limited Slip Differential

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Check that your vehicle remains level when the loaded or unloaded trailer is hitched. Do not drive if the rear end of your vehicle is abnormally higher or lower. Check for proper tongue weight, overload, improper weight distribution, worn suspension, or other possible causes.

Make sure the trailer load is properly positioned and secured so it does not shift around while driving.

Check if your rear view mirrors comply with federal, state and local regulations. If not, confirm the proper mirrors required for towing and install.

Perform an equipment check of all braking, lighting and safety equipment to ensure they are working properly.

Your safety depends on proper operation and installation of equipment. Never operate a vehicle with faulty equipment.

### Limited Slip Differential

*With Optional Wheel/Tire Package*

The limited slip differential is designed to improve traction by limiting wheelspin. If one rear wheel begins to spin on a slippery surface, the limited slip differential will automatically transmit driving force to the other rear wheel.