

## Trailer Towing

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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 powertrain 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.

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

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 gross trailer weight (trailer weight plus cargo load) must never exceed 4,500 lb.

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

Exceeding the weight limit will cause damage to your vehicle and possibly result in personal injury.

- 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 Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) equals the combined weight of your vehicle (including passengers and cargo) plus the total trailer load. The following limits apply.

2WD: 8,700 lb

4WD: 8,950 lb

- 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.
- 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 3 hitch kit (up to 4,500 lb) is 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.

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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 trailer's 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.

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 its does not shift around while driving.

Check if your rearview mirrors comply with federal, state and local regulations. If not, confirm the proper mirrors required for towing and have them installed.

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**

*Standard on EX, with optional Wheel/Tire Package on LX*

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.