

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 [186](#) 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

If you are planning to take your Honda outside the U.S. or Canada, contact the tourist bureaus in the areas you will be traveling in to find out about the availability of unleaded gasoline with the proper octane rating.

If unleaded gasoline is not available, be aware that using leaded gasoline in your Honda will affect performance and fuel mileage, and damage its emissions controls. It will no longer comply with U.S. and Canadian emissions regulations, and will be illegal to operate in North America. To bring your vehicle back into compliance will require the replacement of several components, such as the oxygen sensor and the three-way catalytic converter. These replacements are not covered under warranty.

Accessories & Modifications

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

Accessories

Your dealer has Genuine Honda accessories that allow you to personalize your vehicle. These accessories have been designed and approved for your vehicle, and are covered by warranty.

Non-Honda accessories are usually designed for universal applications. Although aftermarket accessories may fit on your vehicle, they may not meet factory specifications, and could adversely affect your vehicle's handling and stability. (See

"Modifications" on the next page for additional 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.

When properly installed, car phones, alarms, two-way radios, and low-powered audio systems should not interfere with your vehicle's computer-controlled

systems, such as the SRS and anti-lock brake system.

However, if electronic accessories are improperly installed, or exceed your vehicle's electrical system capacity, they can interfere with the operation of your vehicle, or even cause the airbags to deploy.

Before installing any accessory:

- Make sure the accessory does not obscure any lights, or interfere with proper vehicle operation or performance.
- Be sure electronic accessories do not overload electrical circuits (see page [222](#)).
- Have the installer contact your Honda dealer for assistance before installing any electronic accessory.

If possible, have your dealer inspect the final installation.

Modifications

Do not remove any original equipment or modify your vehicle in any way that would alter its design or operation. This could make your vehicle unsafe and illegal to drive.

For example, do not make any modifications that would change the ride height of your vehicle, or install wheels and tires with a different overall diameter.

Such modifications can adversely affect handling, and interfere with the operation of the vehicle's anti-lock brakes and other systems.

In addition, any modifications that decrease ground clearance

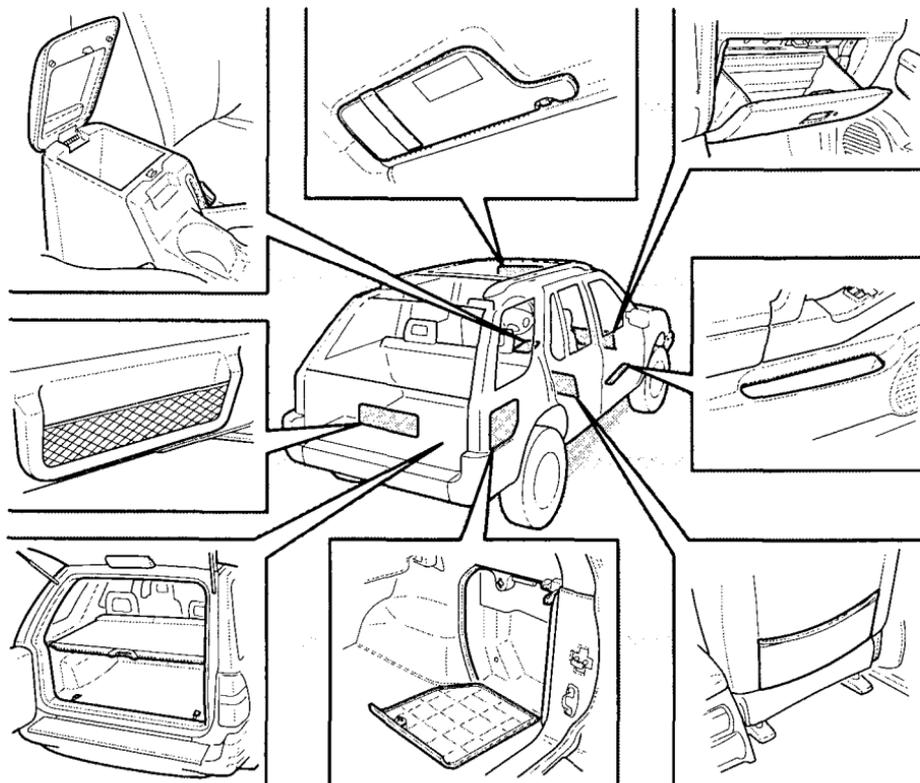
increase the chance of undercarriage parts striking a curb, speed bump, or other raised object, which could cause your airbags to deploy.

Do not modify your steering wheel or any other part of your Supplemental Restraint System. Modifications could make the system ineffective.

Additional Safety Precaution

Do not attach or place objects on the airbag covers. Any object attached to, or placed on, the covers marked "SRS," in the center of the steering wheel and on top of the dashboard, could interfere with the proper operation of the airbags. Or, if the airbags inflate, the objects could be propelled inside the vehicle and hurt someone.

Carrying Cargo



Your vehicle has several convenient storage areas so you can stow cargo safely.

The glove box, the console compartment, and the pockets in the front doors, seat-backs, and cargo area are designed for small, lightweight items. The cargo area is intended for larger, heavier items. In addition, the back seat can be folded down to allow you to carry more cargo or longer items.

However, carrying too much cargo, or improperly storing it, can affect your vehicle's handling, stability, and operation and make it unsafe. Before carrying any type of cargo, be sure to read the following pages.

Load Limit

The maximum load for your vehicle is:

LX 2WD

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

LX 4WD

manual trans:	905 lb (411 kg)
automatic trans:	850 lb (386 kg)

EX

manual trans:	930 lb (423 kg)
automatic trans:	875 lb (398 kg)

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

To figure out how much cargo you can carry:

- Add up the weight of all occupants.
- If you are towing a trailer, add the tongue weight to the number above.
- Subtract the total from the maximum load figure.

The final number is the total weight of cargo you can carry.

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.

Carrying Items in the Passenger Compartment

- Store or secure all items that could be thrown around and hurt someone during a crash.
- Be sure items placed on the floor behind the front seats cannot roll under the seats and interfere with the driver's ability to operate the pedals, or with the proper operation of the seats.
- Keep the glove box closed while driving. If the lid is open, a passenger could injure his knees during a crash or sudden stop.

Carrying Cargo in the Cargo Area or on a Roof Rack

- Distribute cargo evenly on the floor of the cargo area, placing the heaviest items on the bottom and as far forward as possible.
- If you fold down the back seat, tie down items that could be thrown about the vehicle during a crash or sudden stop.
- If you carry large items that prevent you from closing the hatch glass or rear door, exhaust gas can enter the passenger area. To avoid the possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning, follow the instructions on page [44](#).

- If you carry any items on a roof rack, be sure the total weight of the rack and the items does not exceed 200 lb (90 kg).

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 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.

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.

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 it 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.