Your vehicle has been designed to tow a trailer, as well as carrying passengers and their cargo. To safely tow a trailer, you should carefully observe the load limits (see page 199), use the proper equipment, and follow the guidelines in this section.

Be sure to read the **Off-Highway Driving Guidelines** section on page 230 if you plan to tow off paved surfaces.

⚠WARNING

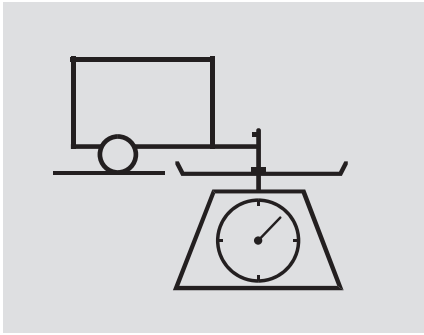
Exceeding any load limit or improperly loading your vehicle and trailer can cause a crash in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

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

Load Limits

Total Trailer Weight: The maximum allowable weight of the trailer and everything in or on it depends on the number of occupants in your vehicle and the type of trailer being towed (see page 223).

Towing a trailer 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 5 to 10 percent of the total trailer weight for boat trailers, and 8 to 15 percent of total trailer weight for all other trailers. (See page 223 for limits for your towing situation). Too much tongue load reduces front-tire traction and steering control. Too little tongue load can make the trailer unstable and cause it to sway.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR):
The maximum allowable weight of the vehicle, all occupants, all accessories, all cargo, and the tongue load is:

4WD models:
5,950 lbs (2,700 kg)

2WD models:
5,840 lbs (2,650 kg)

Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR):
The maximum allowable weight of the vehicle axles is:

4WD models:
2,865 lbs (1,300 kg) on the front axle
3,155 lbs (1,430 kg) on the rear axle

2WD models:
2,865 lbs (1,300 kg) on the front axle
3,085 lbs (1,400 kg) on the rear axle

Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR):
The maximum allowable weight of the fully loaded vehicle and trailer is 9,700 lbs (4,400 kg) with the proper hitch and fluid coolers (see page 225).

The GCWR must be reduced 2 percent for every 1,000 feet (305 meters) of elevation.

Estimating Loads
The best way to confirm that all loads are within limits is to check them at a public scale.
For public scales in your area, check your local phone book, or contact your trailer dealer or rental agency for assistance.
To help ensure a safe drive to a scale, or if you cannot get to a public scale, we recommend that you estimate your total trailer weight and tongue load as described.

To Estimate the Total Trailer Weight
Add the weight of your trailer (as quoted by the manufacturer) with everything in or on the trailer. Then check the tables on page 223 to make sure you do not exceed the limit for your conditions.

To Estimate the Tongue Load
1. Park the vehicle on level ground.
2. Measure from the ground to the bottom of the trailer hitch.
3. Connect the fully loaded trailer to the hitch.
4. Measure again from the ground to the same spot on the bottom of the hitch.
5. Subtract the second measurement from the first measurement, then refer to the following table.

If the difference is:	Estimated tongue load is:
1 ½”	150 lbs (68 kg)
2 ¼”	250 lbs (114 kg)
3”	350 lbs (160 kg)
3 ¾”	450 lbs (205 kg)

If the difference is more than 3 ¾ inch, you have too much load on the tongue. Redistribute the load or remove cargo as needed.

Total Trailer Weight and Tongue Load Limits:

BOAT TRAILERS

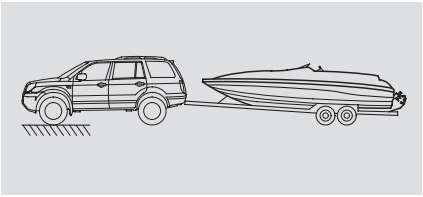
Number of Occupants	Equipped with transmission cooler and power steering fluid cooler.	
	Maximum Total Trailer Weight	Maximum Tongue Load
2	4,500 lbs (2,045 kg)	450 lbs (205 kg)
3	4,500 lbs (2,045 kg)	450 lbs (205 kg)
4	4,500 lbs (2,045 kg)	450 lbs (205 kg)
5	4,300 lbs (1,945 kg)	350 lbs (160 kg)
6	4,100 lbs (1,855 kg)	220 lbs (100 kg)
7	2,000 lbs (905 kg)	100 lbs (45 kg)
8	Towing is Not Recommended	

OTHER TYPES OF TRAILERS

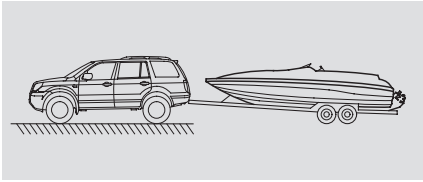
Number of Occupants	Equipped with transmission cooler and power steering fluid cooler.	
	Maximum Total Trailer Weight	Maximum Tongue Load
2	3,500 lbs (1,590 kg)	450 lbs (205 kg)
3	3,500 lbs (1,590 kg)	450 lbs (205 kg)
4	3,300 lbs (1,490 kg)	450 lbs (205 kg)
5	3,100 lbs (1,400 kg)	350 lbs (160 kg)
6	2,700 lbs (1,220 kg)	220 lbs (100 kg)
7	1,200 lbs (540 kg)	100 lbs (45 kg)
8	Towing is Not Recommended	

The corresponding weight limits assume occupants fill seats from the front of the vehicle to the back, each occupant weighs 150 lbs (70 kg) and each has 15 lbs (7 kg) of luggage in the cargo area.

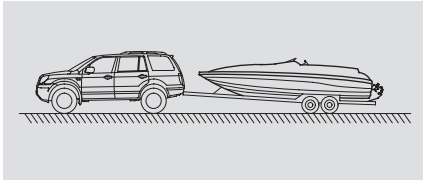
Checking Loads
To accurately check your loads at the public scale, the vehicle and trailer should be fully loaded, and all occupants should stay in the vehicle while the attendant watches the scale.



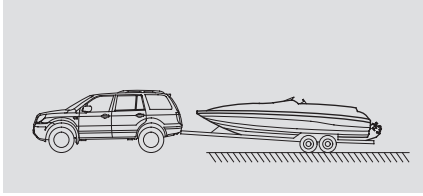
1. Check the front gross axle weight.
   Limit: 2,865 lbs (1,300 kg)



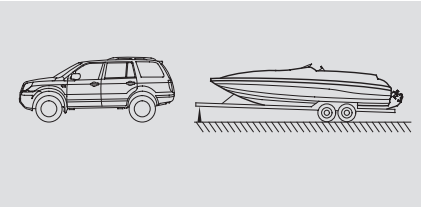
2. Check the gross vehicle weight.
   Limit (4WD models):
   5,950 lbs (2,700 kg)
   Limit (2WD models):
   5,840 lbs (2,650 kg)
3. Check the rear gross axle weight.
   Limit (4WD models):
   3,155 lbs (1,430 kg)
   Limit (2WD models):
   3,085 lbs (1,400 kg)
4. If you cannot weigh the rear axle directly, you can calculate the rear gross axle weight by subtracting the weight in step 1 from the weight in step 2.
   Limit (4WD models):
   3,086 lbs (1,400 kg)
   Limit (2WD models):
   2,976 lbs (1,350 kg)



5. Check the gross combined weight.
   Limit: 9,700 lbs (4,400 kg)
   Remember, maximum gross combined weight should be decreased 2 % for every 1,000 feet (305 meters) of elevation.



6. Check the weight of the hitched trailer. Write this number down.



7. Check the weight of the unhitched trailer. Limit: See page 223 .

8. Calculate the tongue load.
   Subtract the weight in step 6 from the weight in step 7.
   Limit: See page 223 .
   Recommended: see page 220 .
   Range: 5-10% for boat trailers
   8-15% for other trailers

Towing Equipment and Accessories

Towing generally requires a variety of supplemental equipment. To ensure the best quality, we recommend that you purchase Honda equipment whenever possible.

Your dealer offers a trailer package that includes a hitch, a ball mount, a wiring harness, a heavy-duty transmission fluid cooler, and a heavy-duty power steering fluid cooler.

Discuss any additional needs with your trailer sales or rental agency, and make sure all equipment is properly installed, maintained, and also meets state, federal, province, and local regulations.

Hitch

We strongly recommend that you have your dealer install a Honda hitch. Using non-Honda equipment may result in serious damage to your vehicle.

Transmission Fluid Cooler and Power Steering Fluid Cooler

To help prevent overheating, a heavy-duty transmission fluid cooler and a heavy-duty power steering fluid cooler are required for trailer towing. These coolers are available only from your dealer.

Weight Distributing Hitch

A weight distributing hitch is not recommended for use with your vehicle, as an improperly adjusted weight distributing hitch may reduce handling, stability, and braking performance.

CONTINUED

Trailer Brakes
Honda requires that any trailer with a total trailer weight of 1,000 lbs (455 kg) or more has its own brakes.

There are two common types of trailer brakes: surge and electric. Surge brakes are common for boat trailers, since the brakes will get wet.

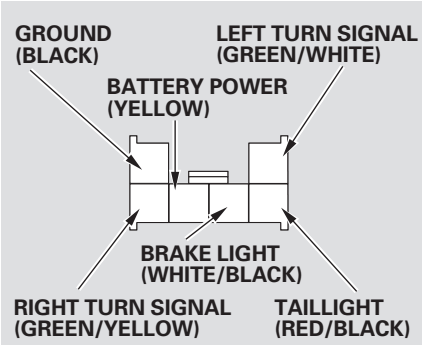
If you choose electric brakes, be sure they are electronically actuated. Do not attempt to tap into your vehicle's hydraulic system. No matter how successful it may seem, any attempt to attach trailer brakes to your vehicles hydraulic system will lower braking effectiveness and create a potential hazard.

See your trailer dealer or rental agency for more information on installing electric brakes.

Safety Chains
Always use safety chains when you tow a trailer. Make sure the chains are secured to the trailer and hitch, and that they cross under the tongue and can catch the trailer if it becomes unhitched. Leave enough slack to allow the trailer to turn corners easily, but do not let the chains drag on the ground.

Sway Control
This device is recommended if your trailer tends to sway. Your trailer maker can tell you what kind of sway control you need and how to install it.

Trailer Mirrors
Many states and provinces require special exterior 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.



Trailer lights and equipment must comply with federal, state, province, and local regulations. Check trailer light requirements for the areas where you plan to tow, and use only equipment designed for your vehicle. Your vehicle is equipped with a connector to install a trailer lighting connector that mates with your vehicle.
Refer to the above illustration for wiring information.

To get to your vehicle's trailer lighting connector, open the tailgate, remove the cargo cover, then remove the rear panel trim. The connector is on the left side.

We recommend that you have your dealer install a Honda wiring harness and converter. This harness has been designed for your vehicle.

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

Improper equipment or installation can cause damage to your vehicle's electrical system and affect your vehicle warranty.

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, cooling system, and lights are in good operating condition.
- The trailer has been properly serviced and is in good condition.
- All weights and loads are within limits.
- The hitch, safety chains, and any other attachments are secure.
- All items in or on the trailer are properly secured and cannot shift while you drive.

CONTINUED

- Your vehicle tires and spare are properly inflated, and the trailer tires and spare are inflated as recommended by the trailer maker.

- Towing performance can be affected by high altitude, high temperature, or when climbing steep grades. Therefore, premium fuel (premium unleaded gasoline with pump octane number of 91 or higher) is recommended when towing more than 3,500 lbs (1,590 kg).

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 below.

Break-In Period
Avoid towing a trailer during your vehicle's first 600 miles (1,000 km) (see page 188).

Towing Speeds and Gears
Drive slower than normal in all driving situations, and obey posted speed limits for vehicles with trailers. When towing a fixed-sided trailer (e.g., camper), do not exceed 55 mph (88 km/h). At higher speeds, the trailer may sway or affect vehicle handling.

To prevent the transmission from shifting frequently, drive in the D position.

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 (Hot) 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 while going up a hill, shift to D3.

When driving down hills, reduce your speed and shift down to D3. Do not "ride" the brakes. **Remember, it takes longer to slow down and stop when towing a trailer.**

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.

Handling Crosswinds and Buffeting
Crosswinds and air turbulence caused by passing trucks can disrupt your steering and cause the trailer to sway. 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.

Retrieving a Boat
If the vehicle's tires slip when retrieving a boat from the water, shift to first gear, and turn on VTM-4 lock (see page 210). Disengage VTM-4 lock as soon as the boat is out of the water to prevent damage to the VTM-4 system.

Towing Your Vehicle
Your vehicle is not designed to be towed behind a motor home. If your vehicle needs to be towed in an emergency, see page 285 .