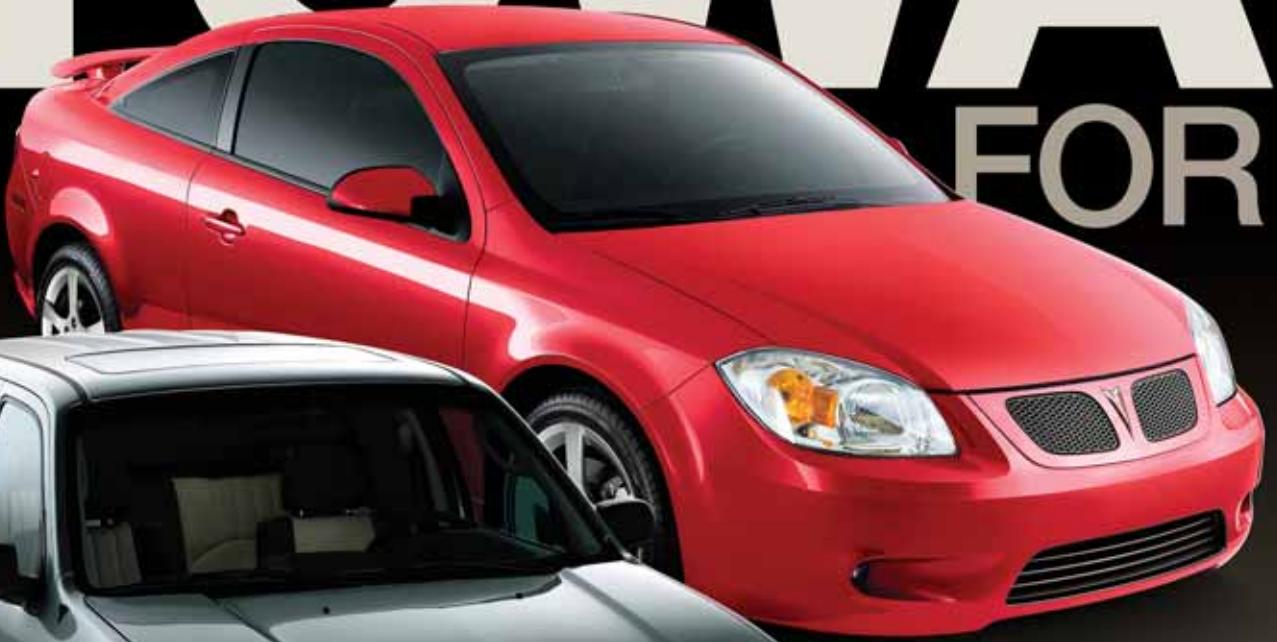


TOWNA FOR

Pontiac G5



*Mercury
Mariner Hybrid*

A guide to 2007-model-year vehicles that manufacturers have indicated can be recreationally towed behind a motorhome without significant modifications.



Saturn Aura

ABLES 2007

The following information is intended to help motorhome owners select a vehicle that is approved by its manufacturer for flat towing. The information was gathered from automobile manufacturers and pertains only to model-year 2007 vehicles. The information may or may not be correct for earlier or later models. While every attempt has been made to present accurate information, keep in mind that continued vehicle improvements and production-line changes could alter the information and render it out-of-date.

Each week, FMCA's national office receives dozens of calls from members who have questions about some aspect of motorhoming. But the one subject that generates the most inquiries is towing. With hundreds of vehicle options available, it can be challenging for a prospective buyer to distinguish between vehicles that can be recreation-ally towed four wheels down behind a motorhome and those that can't.

That's why, in 1999, the editors of *Family Motor Coaching* compiled the first list of vehicles that can be towed behind a motorhome four wheels down. Since then the list has changed considerably. Many older models that have either ceased production or undergone mechanical changes have dropped off the towable list, only to be replaced by new models.

continued



Suzuki SX4

... specific guidelines regarding the towing procedures, necessary modifications, and safety issues pertaining to the particular vehicle

... are often listed in the owners manual under a heading such as "Recreational Towing."

The same holds true for the list of towable 2007 model-year vehicles. Several from the 2006 list, such as Dodge's Neon, SRT-4, and Stratus Coupe; the GMC Envoy; the Mazda Tribute i; Scion's xA and xB; and the Subaru Baja are no longer included. However, taking their place is a host of new vehicles that have been approved by their manufacturers to be towed four wheels down.

Saturn has unveiled several new models for 2007. The front-wheel-drive Aura is a midsize sedan that is powered by either a 3.5-liter or 3.6-liter V-6 engine with an automatic transmission. Joining the Aura is the Outlook, which has the capacity of a sport utility vehicle with the driving characteristics of a car. The Outlook is outfitted with the 3.6-liter V-6 engine and automatic transmission, and is available as a front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive vehicle.

Also new this year is the VUE Green Line Hybrid, the first General Motors vehicle powered by a new hybrid system. The VUE Green Line is said to provide an estimated 20 percent improvement in fuel economy, depending on driving conditions. It is expected to deliver an EPA estimated 27 mpg in the city and the best highway mileage of any SUV at 32 mpg. The front-wheel-drive vehicle is powered by a 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine in concert with an electric motor/generator and an automatic transmission.

Another new General Motors product on the list this year is the front-wheel-drive Pontiac G5, a compact car that is driven by a 2.2-liter or 2.4-liter I-4 engine and either an automatic or manual transmission.

The 2007 listing for Ford includes two vehicles not on last year's list. The Fusion, a midsize sedan with a V-6 engine, is towable in its front-wheel-drive, manual-transmission configuration. Back on the list after a year out of production is the Explorer Sport Trac. Only the four-wheel-drive version of this sport utility truck, which can be equipped with a V-6 or V-8 engine and an automatic transmission, is towable with a dealer-installed neutral tow kit.

Staying in the family, Mercury includes three Ford counterparts that are towable: the four-wheel-drive automatic Mariner Hybrid; the front-wheel drive Milan with an I-4 engine and manual transmission; and the four-wheel-drive Mountaineer, which is available with a V-6 or V-8 engine and an automatic transmission (neutral tow kit required).

Other new models appearing for the first time on the towing list include the front-wheel-drive Nissan Versa with manual transmission and the all-wheel-drive Suzuki SX4 with manual transmission.

Not new to the list but definitely a completely different vehicle is the 2007 four-wheel-drive Jeep Wrangler, which is longer, wider, heavier, features a new power plant, and has more ground clearance than previous models. Although the standard 3.8-liter V-6 engine has a bit less horsepower and torque than the venerable 4.0-liter I-6 with which Wranglers have been equipped since 1987, it is far more powerful than the previously standard 2.4-liter I-4 engine.

TOWING TIPS

According to *Family Motor Coaching* magazine's most recent readership survey, approximately 92 percent of FMCA members said that they always or sometimes tow a vehicle behind their motorhomes. While some members use a trailer or a tow dolly, the majority flat tow — that is, the towed vehicle has all four wheels on the ground with a tow bar connecting it to the motorhome.

Before purchasing a vehicle that you intend to tow four wheels down, always consult your towed vehicle's owners manual for specific guidelines regarding the towing procedures, necessary modifications, and safety issues pertaining to the particular vehicle. This information is often listed in the owners manual under a heading such as "Recreational Towing." Keep in mind that while a manufacturer may say a certain vehicle can be towed without significant modifications, what may not be significant to one person may be burdensome to another.

Also, make sure to find out from the dealer, manufacturer, and/or the owners manual how towing will affect the vehicle's warranty. At the same time, ask the dealer representative whether any service bulletins have been released that relate to towing the vehicle behind a motorhome. Make sure the person with whom you are speaking realizes that you are talking about towing the vehicle and not using it *to tow* a trailer. Also, when reading information in the owners manual, do not confuse recreational towing with emergency towing. Some vehicles can be towed four wheels down for emergency purposes only.

Before purchasing a towed vehicle, weigh it if possible. The following list includes approximate curb weights as supplied by the manufacturers; however, optional equipment and accessories undoubtedly will increase the weight of the vehicle. It is also a good idea to weigh your motorhome (see "Weight And Tire Safety," September 2003, page 90). Because of overloading issues, some motorhomes should not tow anything. In fact, certain motorhomes may need to have their loads lightened before being driven solo.

Also, consult your motorhome's owners manual for requirements and information regarding the use of auxiliary braking systems on the towed vehicle. Some chassis, motorhome, and automobile manufacturers recommend that supplemental brakes be used on any towed vehicle. Not all jurisdictions mandate supplemental brakes on towed vehicles, but the laws of physics always apply. It is hoped that few drivers would consider towing a load of bricks on a trailer that was not equipped with brakes, but some people tow a 3,000-pound vehicle without supplemental brakes. Of course, the brakes on the motorhome cannot tell the difference between 3,000 pounds of bricks and 3,000 pounds of vehicle. Most of us have never heard a driver say the brakes on a vehicle stop it too quickly.

Nevertheless, many of us have seen what happens when brakes don't work quickly enough.

The most important issue we face as we operate our coaches is safety. That means that only knowledgeable, qualified, and experienced personnel should do the initial installation of the towing equipment. After installation, it's imperative that all equipment be checked frequently and used only in the manner for which it was designed.

As with other mechanical gear, proper maintenance can increase the lifetime of towing equipment. However, there comes a time when the equipment must be replaced to prevent a dangerous situation. Frequent inspections will alert you to the need.

When hooking up your towed vehicle, do not let yourself be distracted. We've all heard stories of someone who had a weld break or who forgot to connect safety chains but was fortunate enough that nothing bad happened. Others were not so lucky, and they know that the personal and financial costs of a towing mishap can be enormous.

There is no single best way or best vehicle to tow. Each vehicle and each method has advantages and disadvantages. If a vehicle you already own or wish to purchase cannot be flat towed, it may be possible to tow it on a dolly or trailer or have adaptations made to the vehicle to make it towable.

REMCO: THE TOWING EXPERTS

Remco began operating in 1978 and has become the leading provider of information and products used to modify vehicles for flat towing that are not approved by their manufacturers for recreational towing in this manner.

If you have a vehicle that you enjoy driving but it is not approved for towing, give Remco a call — the company more than likely has a product that can help you. Here is a list of the related products Remco offers.

- The **Drive Shaft Coupling** is the answer for rear-wheel-drive vehicles with automatic transmissions. As the name indicates, it disconnects the driveshaft at the rear U-joint and is controlled by a heavy-duty cable. Simply pull the cable handle — much like an old-time choke cable — and disengage the steering wheel lock and you're ready to tow. To re-engage the driveshaft, simply push in the cable handle and you're good to go.
- The **Lube Pump** is used on front-wheel-drive vehicles to prevent damage to automatic transmissions. When a vehicle with an automatic transmission is driven, the transmission is lubricated by an engine-driven fluid pump. When the vehicle is towed, this pump does not operate. The Lube Pump provides a reliable lubrication system for the transmission while it is being towed. To tow the vehicle, connect the wiring cable between the motorhome and the towable. The new electronic monitor automatically runs a system diagnostic before it switches the system on. The Lube Pump is powered by the coach's electrical system, so you need not worry about a dead battery in your towable.
- The **Axle-Lock** disconnects the automatic transaxle for towing a front-wheel-drive vehicle. Simply twist the Axle-Lock housing to the unlock position and you are ready to tow. There's no wear and tear on the driveline and no mileage accumulation on your car's odometer.

For more information, contact Remco at (877) 645-7169 or visit www.remcotowing.com.



Chevrolet Tahoe



Chrysler PT Cruiser Convertible

TREADING THE CHART

Based on questions we've received from readers in past years, here are some clarifications regarding information that appears on the accompanying towing chart. First, black circles (●) indicate whether a particular manual- or automatic-transmission model is towable. If a circle (●) does not appear after a model name in the "Auto" or "Manual" column, that particular configuration is not recommended by the manufacturer as being towable. If an "N/A" appears, it means that model is not available with that particular transmission. Keep in mind also that although some vehicles are indicated as being towable, not all trim lines, engine configurations, etc. within that model line may be towable; always refer to the particular vehicle's owners manual to be sure.

CHEVROLET

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Avalanche 4x4	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,678	221.3
Cobalt	●	●	Front-wheel drive	None	2,780	180.5
Colorado 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	4,037	207.1
HHR	●	●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,155	176.2
Malibu	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,297	188.3
Malibu Maxx	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,620	187.8
Silverado 4x4*	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	4,634	246.6
Suburban 4x4*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,796	222.4
Tahoe 4x4*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,050	202.0
TrailBlazer 4x2**	●	N/A	Rear-wheel drive	None	4,594	191.8
TrailBlazer 4x4**	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,007	191.8

*Must have four-wheel-drive transfer case; not all-wheel-drive or two-wheel-drive.

**Must have the AutoTrac transmission.



Dodge Ram 1500



Ford Fusion

CHRYSLER

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
PT Cruiser Base, Touring, Limited, GT		●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,076	168.9
PT Cruiser Convertible Base, GT*		●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,458	168.9

**The Touring trim line of the PT Cruiser Convertible is not available with a manual transmission and, therefore, is not towable.*

DODGE

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Dakota 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	4,463	218.8
Durango 4x4*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,200	200.8
Ram 1500 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	5,560	249.7
Ram 2500 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	6,480	249.7
Ram 3500 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	7,030	249.7

**Only Durangos equipped with the optional low-speed transfer case that has a neutral position can be towed four wheels down. The standard Durango 4x4 is an all-wheel-drive vehicle that does not have a neutral position and cannot be towed four wheels down.*



GMC Sierra



Honda CR-V

FORD

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Escape I-4		●	Four-wheel drive	None	3,318	174.9
Escape I-4		●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,156	174.9
Escape Hybrid	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	3,759	174.9
Escape Hybrid	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,594	174.9
Explorer 4x4 V-6*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,686	193.4
Explorer 4x4 V-8**	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,777	193.4
Explorer Sport Trac 4x4 V-6*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,687	210.2
Explorer Sport Trac 4x4 V-8**	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,793	210.2
Focus		●	Front-wheel drive	None	2,783	178.4
Fusion I-4		●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,101	190.2
Ranger 4x2		●	Rear-wheel drive	55/None	3,171	203.6
Ranger 4x4***	●	●	Four-wheel drive	55/None	3,672	203.6
F-150 4x2 V6		●	Rear-wheel drive	None	4,747	248.4
F-150 4x4****	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,849	248.4
F-250/350 Super Duty 4x4****	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	7,101	261.8

*With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part #1L2Z-7H332-AB).

**With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part #6L2Z-7H332-A).

Automatic with dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part #3L2Z-7H332-AA). Manual with Electronic Shift-on-the-Fly rotary control in 2-high position and the transmission in neutral. *Manual transfer case only. (Not electronic Shift-on-the-Fly.) Excludes Harley-Davidson model.

GMC

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Canyon 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	3,945	207.1
Sierra 1500 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	4,950	237.2
Sierra Classic 2500 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	6,037	256.2
Sierra 3500 4x4	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	6,552	256.2
Yukon 4x4	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,674	202.0
Yukon XL 4x4	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,893	222.4



Hummer H3



Hyundai Sonata

HONDA

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
CR-V LX, EX, EX-L 4x2	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65/None*	3,415	178.0
CR-V LX, EX, EX-L 4x4	●	N/A	Front wheel drive	65/None*	3,534	178.0

*Special procedure required for every 8 hours of towing to avoid severe transmission damage. Please refer to the owners manual for full details.

HUMMER

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
H2/H2 SUT	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	6,400	203.5
H3	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	4,700	186.7

HYUNDAI

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Accent GS, SE, GLS	●		Front-wheel drive	None	2,496	168.5
Elantra GLS, SE, Limited	●		Front-wheel drive	None	2,751	177.4
Santa Fe GLS 4x2	●		Front-wheel drive	None	3,892	184.1
Sonata GLS	●		Front-wheel drive	None	3,253	188.9
Tiburon GS, GT, SE, GT Limited	●		Front-wheel drive	None	2,986	173.0
Tucson GLS 4x2	●		Front-wheel drive	None	3,240	170.3

INFINITI

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
G35 Sport Coupe 6 MT	●		Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	3,522	187.0

*After towing 500 miles at no more than 60 mph, idle the engine in "neutral" for several minutes to circulate fluids.



Infiniti G35 Sport Coupe 6 MT



Jeep Wrangler Unlimited

JEEP

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Commander*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,826	188.5
Grand Cherokee*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,488	186.6
Liberty	●		Four-wheel drive	None	4,033	174.4
Wrangler (2-door)	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	3,760	152.8
Wrangler Unlimited (4-door)	●	●	Four-wheel drive	None	4,075	173.4

**Only vehicles equipped with the Quadra-Trac II and Quadra-Drive II systems can be towed four wheels down.*

LEXUS

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
IS 250		●	Rear-wheel drive	None	3,455	180.1

MAZDA

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
B2300 Regular Cab		●	Rear-wheel drive	55/None	2,999	187.5
B3000 Regular Cab		●	Rear-wheel drive	55/None	3,297	187.7
B3000 Cab Plus 4 Door		●	Rear-wheel drive	55/None	3,421	202.9
B4000 Cab Plus 4 Door 4x4		●	Four-wheel drive	55/None	3,662	202.9

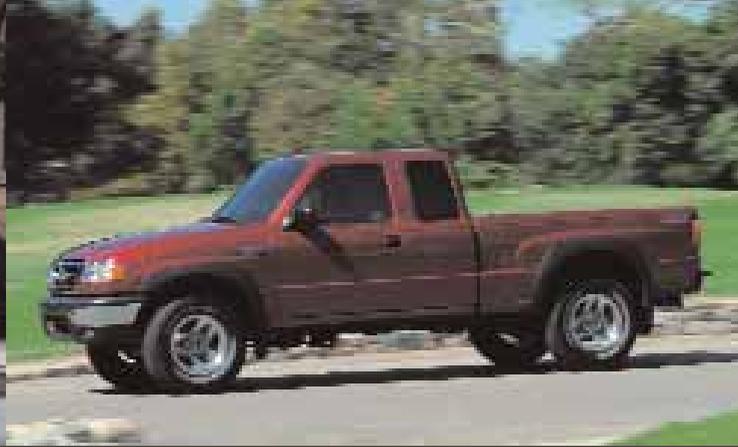
MERCURY

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Mariner Hybrid	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	3,787	174.3
Milan I-4		●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,117	191.4
Mountaineer 4x4 V-6*	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,629	193.5
Mountaineer 4x4 V-8**	●	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,717	193.5

**With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part #1L2Z-7H332-AB). **With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part #6L2Z-7H332-A).*



Lexus IS 250



Mazda B-Series

NISSAN

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
350Z		●	Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	3,339	169.8
Altima		●	Front-wheel drive	60/500*	3,268	189.8
Frontier King Cab XE, SE 4x2		●	Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	3,675	205.5
Frontier Crew Cab Regular Bed SE 4x2		●	Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	4,226	205.5
Frontier Crew Cab Long Bed SE 4x2		●	Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	4,318	219.4
Frontier King Cab SE, Nismo 4x4		●	Four-wheel drive	60/500*	4,307	205.5
Frontier Crew Cab Regular Bed SE 4x4		●	Four-wheel drive	60/500*	4,419	205.5
Frontier Crew Cab Long Bed SE 4x4		●	Four-wheel drive	60/500*	4,540	219.4
Sentra 2.0, 2.0 S		●	Front-wheel drive	60/500*	2,907	179.8
Versa S, SL; Hatchback, Sedan		●	Front-wheel drive	60/500*	2,737	176.0
Xterra S, OR 4x2		●	Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	4,149	178.7
Xterra S, OR 4x4		●	Four-wheel drive	60/500*	4,375	178.7

*All Nissan vehicles: After towing 500 miles, idle the engine in "neutral" for several minutes to circulate fluids.

PONTIAC

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
G5	●	●	Front-wheel drive	None	2,991	179.8
G6*	●	●	Front-wheel drive	None	3,838	189.0
Vibe		●	Front-wheel drive	None	2,701	171.9

*The G6 equipped with a 3.9-liter V-6 and an automatic transmission cannot be towed four wheels down.



Nissan Versa



Scion tC

SATURN

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Aura	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65/None	3,647	190.0
Ion Coupe, Sedan	●	●	Front-wheel drive	65/None	2,796	185.0
Ion Red Line	N/A	●	Front-wheel drive	65/None	2,945	185.0
Outlook	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65/None	4,722	200.7
Outlook	●	N/A	All-wheel drive	65/None	4,936	200.7
VUE I-4	●	●	Front-wheel drive	65/None	3,292	181.3
VUE Green Line Hybrid	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65/None	3,474	181.3
VUE V-6	●	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65/None	3,534	181.3
VUE V-6	●	N/A	All-wheel drive	65/None	3,668	181.3

SCION

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
tC		●	Front-wheel drive	None	2,970	174.0

**After towing, let the engine idle for more than three minutes before driving vehicle.*

SUBARU

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Forester 2.5 L		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,140	176.6
Impreza 2.5i Sedan, Sport Wagon, Outback Sport		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,071	175.8
Impreza WRX, WRX Limited, STI		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,239	175.8
Legacy Sedan		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,270	186.2
Legacy Wagon		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,305	188.7
Outback Sedan		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,330	186.2
Outback Wagon		●	All-wheel drive	None	3,420	188.7



Subaru Outback Wagon



Toyota Corolla

SUZUKI

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Aerio Sedan		●	Front-wheel drive	55/200*	2,660	171.3
Grand Vitara**	●	●	Four-wheel drive	55/200*	3,582	176.0
SX4		●	All-wheel drive	55/200*	2,849	162.8

**All three models: Stop towing after 200 miles and follow the manufacturer's instructions to circulate the oil in the transfer case and/or transmission. **Transfer case in neutral; manual transmission model in second gear and automatic transmission model in park.*

TOYOTA

Model	Transmission		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)	Total Length (in.)
	Auto	Manual				
Camry		●	Front-wheel drive	None*	3,495	189.2
Camry Solara		●	Front-wheel drive	None*	3,582	192.5
Corolla		●	Front-wheel drive	None*	2,615	178.3
Matrix		●	Front-wheel drive	None*	2,965	171.3
Yaris		●	Front-wheel drive	None*	2,326	169.3

**After towing, let the engine idle for more than three minutes before driving the vehicle.*

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TOW, ALWAYS . . .

. . . follow the towing instructions provided in the towed vehicle's owners manual exactly as written.

. . . make sure no one is standing between the towed vehicle and the motorhome when the towed vehicle is being positioned to be hooked up.

. . . adhere to the motorhome's gross combination weight rating when towing another vehicle.

. . . check the towing equipment – receiver, tow bar, base plate, safety chains, electrical wiring – for damage or wear.

. . . check the towed vehicle's tires for proper inflation and condition.

. . . give your undivided attention while hooking up the towed vehicle. Complete the entire process before moving on to something else.

. . . make sure the connections – tow bar, safety chains, electrical – are secure.

. . . check the towed vehicle's brake lights, taillights, and turn signals to make sure they are operational once the vehicle is hooked up.

. . . release the towed vehicle's parking brake and make sure the steering wheel is unlocked, if necessary, before towing.