

2005 Official Towing Ratings

MotorHome's annual compilation of cars, trucks and SUVs suitable for flat towing

Joel R. Donaldson



2005 Official Towing Ratings



CHEVROLET MALIBU

Motorhome owners can choose from a diverse and interesting group of 2005 cars, trucks and SUVs as auxiliary transportation — from the smallest compacts to SUVs as large as the Hummer — and *MotorHome's* 2005 Dinghy Towing Guide provides the basis for making the right choice: A vehicle that is officially approved and warranted by its manufacturer for flat towing.

The listings cover vehicles that can be towed at speeds of at least 55 MPH and for distances of at least 200 miles without special procedures. Since many vehicles that are towable when equipped with manual transmissions are not towable when equipped with an automatic, the listings have been arranged to make this distinction readily apparent. Footnotes denote

manufacturers' unique restrictions on towing procedures for specific models. Curb weight, EPA estimated mileage and approximate retail price are important factors when choosing a vehicle for dinghy use — and are included in the guide.

Equally as important as what's listed here is what is *not* listed. Vehicles that are absent from the charts are not approved by their manufacturers for flat towing. In some cases, this decision is based on significant

mechanical reasons. For example, luxury brands invariably equip all their models with automatic transmissions, which tends to rule out their towability (except in 4WD models). In other instances, a manufacturer's engineering or legal department may have concerns about issues such as proper tow-bar baseplate design and installation, or liability.



SATURN VUE



HONDA ELEMENT



JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE



O B J E C T S I N M I R R

SMALL, W INSIGNI

The Workhorse W-Series is the biggest, baddest and most powerful gas chassis on the planet. The W-20, 22 and 24 are bred specifically for what an RV driver wants most—complete control of the road. Built with the brawny 496 Cubic Inch GM Vortec™ 8100 V8, there won't be any mountain, hill or winding curve that you can't dominate and conquer.



While you're driving with the road at your fingertips, you can always rest assured that you're in complete control with our exclusive Transmission Grade Braking feature. This system allows the

transmission to slow the motor home down. Not only will it help keep your brakes cool, it helps you come to a controlled stop which is helpful when towing a freewheeling vehicle.

The road can check its attitude at the curb with our Stabil-Ride suspension and our custom Bilstein® shocks. You may feel more like you're lounging in a recliner than driving.

And with our 9.6-inch, 50,000-lb. frame rail, there will never be a question of whether bigger is safer. So while you're cruising to your vacation hideaway the only thing you'll ever need to worry



IF YOU WANT THE ULTIMATE POWER AN RV HAS TO OFFER, VISIT A WORKHORSE DEALER NEAR YOU.

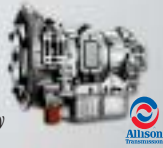


OR WILL APPEAR
**BEAK AND
 EFFICANT.**

about is letting the power go to your head. But if the road trip does happen to become the ultimate power trip, always remember you should try to be a benevolent King of the Road. Long Live the King!

**TAKE THE HIGH ROAD, THE LOW ROAD, OR THE
 ARE YOU SURE THAT'S A ROAD?**

If you want to do more than just get there, then you need an Allison 1000 Series™. It's the performance behind the power. Previously



exclusive to diesel pushers, it's built to tow the biggest boats and SUVs. Simply, it's the best transmission you can find on the market. Coupled with the GM Vortec™ 8100 engine, the Allison guarantees smooth and responsive acceleration and best-in-class shifting for a comfortable ride. So hit the road, put the pedal to the metal and let the Workhorse chassis take you down whatever road you choose.



A NEW BREED.™

CALL 877.BY HORSE OR VISIT WORKHORSE.COM.



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CHEVROLET COBALT

Most motorhome owners prefer automatic transmissions, and most vehicles with automatics are not rated for flat towing unless they're in 4WD vehicles, whose transfer cases can be shifted to neutral to prevent transmission damage from inadequate lubrication. (Among the exceptions is Saturn's line-up, all of which are now towable, except the Relay.) While a 4WD SUV may be towable with an automatic, its 2WD counterpart usually is not.

Fortunately, for most of the vehicles not included in this guide, there are alternatives to towing with all wheels rolling. Driveshaft disconnects and transmission-lube pumps are available for many vehicles equipped with automatic transmissions. Tow dollies can be used with all but a handful of all-wheel-drive vehicles, and trailers are yet another option — provided the motorhome's gross combination weight rating and hitch ratings are not exceeded.

While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in the charts, it is the reader's responsibility to verify the suitability of any prospective dinghy vehicle *before* buying or attempting to tow it. Any particular vehicle may be subject to changes in towability status due to engineering, manufacturing, legal or documentary changes, so the ultimate

determination of a vehicle's towability (along with recommended towing procedures) is found in the owner's manual. Don't take the car salesman's word for it — read the owner's manual before signing on the dotted line. ■



FORD RANGER

Guides for earlier model years can be ordered as reprints by calling (805) 667-4366; they also are available online at the motorhomemagazine.com Web site.



SUZUKI AERIO



SUZUKI XL-7

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Passenger Vehicles

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Automatic Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Base Retail
Chevrolet						
Cavalier Sedan/Coupe	2,617	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	25/33	\$12,740
Cobalt Sedan/Coupe	2,868	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	30/46	\$13,625
Malibu	3,174	65 MPH/None	N/A	Yes	24/34	\$18,995
Malibu Maxx	3,458	65 MPH/None	N/A	Yes	24/34	\$20,760
Chrysler/Dodge						
Neon	2,581	None	Yes	No	27/33	\$13,615
PT Cruiser	3,121	None	Yes	No	21/29	\$18,080
Sebring/Stratus Coupe	3,133	None	Yes	No	22/29	\$22,145
Ford						
Focus	2,621	None	Yes	No	26/35	\$13,090
Hyundai						
Accent	2,280	None	Yes	No	29/33	\$9,999
Elantra	2,635	None	Yes	No	27/24	\$13,299
Sonata	3,181	None	Yes	No	22/30	\$15,999
Tiburon	2,940	None	Yes	No	24/30	\$16,999
Infiniti						
G35 Sport Sedan	3,336	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	20/27	\$30,300
G35 Sport Coupe	3,416	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	20/27	\$31,800
<i>(1) Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.</i>						
Nissan						
350Z	3,200	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	20/26	est \$27,000
Altima 2.5	3,100	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	24/31	est \$19,000
Maxima	3,450	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	20/29	est \$26,000
Sentra	2,600	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	28/35	est \$14,000
<i>(1) Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.</i>						

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Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Automatic Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Base Retail
Pontiac						
Grand Am	3,118	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	20/29	\$19,870
G6	3,380	65 MPH/None	N/A	Yes	20/30	\$21,300
Sunfire	2,771	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	24/33	\$10,895
Vibe	2,701	None	Yes	No	29/36	\$16,915
Saturn						
Ion Sedan	2,692	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	26/35	\$10,995
L300 Sedan/Wagon	3,057	65 MPH/None	N/A	Yes	24/34	\$16,995
Scion						
xA	2,340	55 MPH/200 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	32/38	\$12,480
xB	2,395	55 MPH/200 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	31/35	\$13,680
tC	2,905	55 MPH/200 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	23/30	\$15,950
<i>(1) Idle engine for three minutes every 200 miles.</i>						
Subaru						
Impreza RS Sedan/ Sport Wagon	2,972	None	Yes	No	23/30	\$18,095
Impreza WRX Sedan/Sport Wagon	3,085	None	Yes	No	20/27	\$24,895
Impreza Outback	3,430	None	Yes	No	21/28	\$18,995
Legacy Sedan/Wagon	3,200	None	Yes	No	21/27	\$20,995
Suzuki						
Aerio S/GS Sedan/Wagon	2,676	55 MPH/200 MI	Yes	No	25/31	\$12,999 ⁽¹⁾
<i>(1) 2004 Model.</i>						
Toyota						
Camry	3,086	None	Yes	No	24/33	\$18,045
Camry Solara	3,175	None	Yes	No	21/29	\$19,220
Celica	2,425	None	Yes	No	29/36	\$17,670
Corolla	2,505	None	Yes	No	32/40	\$13,680
Echo	2,035	None	Yes	No	35/43	\$10,355
Corolla Matrix	2,679	None	Yes	No	29/36	\$14,760
MR2 Spyder	2,195	None	Yes	N/A	26/32	\$25,145

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Trucks & SUVs

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Automatic Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Base Retail
Acura						
MDX	4,451	65 MPH/None ⁽¹⁾	N/A	Yes ⁽¹⁾	17/23	\$35,700
<i>(1) Recirculate transmission fluid every eight towing hours.</i>						
Chevrolet/GMC						
Avalanche 1500 4WD	5,678	None	N/A	Yes	13/17	\$36,320
Avalanche 2500 4WD	6,642	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$38,155
Blazer 2DR 4WD	3,866	None	Yes	Yes	15/19	\$24,055
Colorado/Canyon 4WD	3,712	None	Yes	Yes	TBD	\$18,375
Silverado/Sierra 1500 4WD	5,008	None	Yes	Yes	15/18	\$23,775
Silverado/Sierra 2500 4WD	5,664	None	Yes	Yes	NR	\$28,470
Suburban/Yukon XL1500 4WD	5,219	None	N/A	Yes	13/17	\$40,650
Suburban/Yukon XL2500 4WD	5,796	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$42,350
Tahoe/Yukon 4WD	5,050	None	N/A	Yes	14/18	\$38,160
TrailBlazer/Envoy 4WD	4,594	None	N/A	Yes	15/21	\$29,770
TrailBlazer EXT/Envoy XL 4WD	4,954	None	N/A	Yes	15/20	\$32,040
Dodge						
Dakota 4WD	4,295	None	Yes	Yes	16/22	\$24,339
Durango 4WD	4,713	None	N/A	Yes	15/19	\$29,715
Ram 4WD	4,613	None	Yes	Yes	13/18	\$26,800
Ford/Mercury/Mazda						
Escape/Mariner/Tribute FWD	3,176	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	24/29	\$19,405
Escape/Mariner/Tribute AWD	3,347	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	22/26	\$21,155
Explorer 4D 4WD	4,301	55 MPH/None	N/A	Yes ⁽²⁾	14/18	\$29,235

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Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Automatic Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Base Retail
Explorer Sport Trac 2WD	4,135	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	16/21	\$23,710
Explorer Sport Trac 4WD	4,349	55 MPH/None	Yes	Yes ⁽¹⁾	11/15	\$26,480
F-150 4WD	4,349	55 MPH/None	Yes	Yes ⁽¹⁾	11/15	\$26,480
F-150 4WD	5,004	55 MPH/None	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽³⁾	14/18	\$24,820
F-250/350 SD 4WD	6,114	55 MPH/None	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽³⁾	NR	\$25,470
Ranger/B2300 2WD	3,010	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	24/29	\$14,365
Ranger/B3000 4WD	3,456	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	17/21	\$17,645

⁽¹⁾ With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part no. 3L2J-7H332-AA).

⁽²⁾ With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part no. 1L2J-7H332-AA).

⁽³⁾ Manual transfer case only.

Note: Restrictions and towing procedures may vary by vehicle. Contact your Ford dealer for complete details.

Honda

CR-V FWD/AWD	3,201	Legal/None	Yes	Yes ⁽¹⁾	22/26 ⁽²⁾	\$18,900
Element FWD/AWD	3,287	Legal/None	Yes	Yes ⁽¹⁾	17/22 ⁽²⁾	\$16,100
Pilot 4X4	4,416	Legal/None	N/A	Yes ⁽¹⁾	22/26 ⁽²⁾	\$27,100

⁽¹⁾ Recirculate transmission fluid every eight towing hours.

⁽²⁾ 2004 Model.

Hummer

H2	6,400	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$51,800
H2 SUT	6,400	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$52,845

Hyundai

Tucson	3,240	Legal/None	Yes ⁽¹⁾	No	22/27	\$17,500
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⁽¹⁾ 2WD only.

Isuzu

Ascender 5 Pass. 4WD	4,612	Legal/None	N/A	Yes	15/21	\$27,959
Ascender 7 Pass. 4WD	4,967	Legal/None	N/A	Yes	15/21	\$31,398

Jeep

Grand Cherokee 4WD	4,613	None	N/A	Yes	14/20	\$28,745
Liberty 4WD	4,011	None	Yes	Yes	17/22	\$20,700
Wrangler	3,721	None	Yes	Yes	14/18	\$17,900

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Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Automatic Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Base Retail
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Kia

Sorento 2WD	4,112	55 MPH/400 MI	Yes ⁽¹⁾	No	16/20	\$18,995
Sorento 4WD	4,306	55 MPH/400 MI	Yes ⁽¹⁾	No	16/20	\$20,900

⁽¹⁾ Idle engine for several minutes every 400 towing miles.

Land Rover

Range Rover	5,379	None	N/A	Yes	12/16	\$73,750
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Nissan

Frontier 2WD	4,000	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	N/A	est \$15,000
Frontier 4WD	4,200	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾	No	N/A	est \$17,000
Xterra 2WD	4,100	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	N/A	est \$18,000
Xterra 4WD	4,300	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾	No	N/A	est \$20,000

⁽¹⁾ Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.

⁽²⁾ Tow with 4WD transfer case in Neutral.

Saturn

VUE ⁽¹⁾	3,207	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	23/28	\$17,600
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⁽¹⁾ Except VTi-equipped 4-cylinder AWD models, which are not flat-towable.

Subaru

Baja	3,480	None	Yes	No	21/27	\$23,995
Forester 2.5X	3,090	None	Yes	No	21/28	\$20,895

Suzuki

Grand Vitara 4WD	3,230	55 MPH	Yes ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	19/22	\$20,099
Vitara V6 4WD	2,899	55 MPH	Yes ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	19/22	\$16,299
XL-7 4WD	3,704	55 MPH	Yes ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	17/22	\$22,299

⁽¹⁾ Tow with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in 2nd gear.

⁽²⁾ Tow with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in Park.

⁽³⁾ Every 200 miles, rev engine with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in gear and clutch pedal not depressed.

⁽⁴⁾ Every 200 miles, rev engine with transfer case in Neutral and transmission in Drive.

Toyota

RAV4 2WD	2,897	None	Yes	No	24/30	\$18,990
RAV4 4WD	3,119	55 MPH/200 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	21/26	\$20,390

⁽¹⁾ Idle engine for three minutes every 200 miles.