

# 2005 Official Towing Ratings

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

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## 2005 Official Towing Ratings



**CHEVROLET MALIBU**

**M**otorhome 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.

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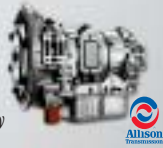


OR WILL APPEAR  
**BEAK AND  
 EFFICANT.**

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.*



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CALL 877.BY HORSE OR VISIT WORKHORSE.COM.



## 2005 Official Towing Ratings



**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



**FORD RANGER**

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. ■

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



**SUZUKI AERIO**



**SUZUKI XL-7**



# 2005 Official Towing Ratings

## Passenger Vehicles

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

## 2005 Official Towing Ratings

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

# 2005 Official Towing Ratings

## Trucks & SUVs

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Automatic Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Base Retail
<b>Acura</b>						
<b>MDX</b>	4,451	65 MPH/None <sup>(1)</sup>	N/A	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	17/23	\$35,700
<i>(1) Recirculate transmission fluid every eight towing hours.</i>						
<b>Chevrolet/GMC</b>						
<b>Avalanche 1500 4WD</b>	5,678	None	N/A	Yes	13/17	\$36,320
<b>Avalanche 2500 4WD</b>	6,642	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$38,155
<b>Blazer 2DR 4WD</b>	3,866	None	Yes	Yes	15/19	\$24,055
<b>Colorado/Canyon 4WD</b>	3,712	None	Yes	Yes	TBD	\$18,375
<b>Silverado/Sierra 1500 4WD</b>	5,008	None	Yes	Yes	15/18	\$23,775
<b>Silverado/Sierra 2500 4WD</b>	5,664	None	Yes	Yes	NR	\$28,470
<b>Suburban/Yukon XL1500 4WD</b>	5,219	None	N/A	Yes	13/17	\$40,650
<b>Suburban/Yukon XL2500 4WD</b>	5,796	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$42,350
<b>Tahoe/Yukon 4WD</b>	5,050	None	N/A	Yes	14/18	\$38,160
<b>TrailBlazer/Envoy 4WD</b>	4,594	None	N/A	Yes	15/21	\$29,770
<b>TrailBlazer EXT/Envoy XL 4WD</b>	4,954	None	N/A	Yes	15/20	\$32,040
<b>Dodge</b>						
<b>Dakota 4WD</b>	4,295	None	Yes	Yes	16/22	\$24,339
<b>Durango 4WD</b>	4,713	None	N/A	Yes	15/19	\$29,715
<b>Ram 4WD</b>	4,613	None	Yes	Yes	13/18	\$26,800
<b>Ford/Mercury/Mazda</b>						
<b>Escape/Mariner/Tribute FWD</b>	3,176	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	24/29	\$19,405
<b>Escape/Mariner/Tribute AWD</b>	3,347	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	22/26	\$21,155
<b>Explorer 4D 4WD</b>	4,301	55 MPH/None	N/A	Yes <sup>(2)</sup>	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
<b>Explorer Sport Trac 2WD</b>	4,135	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	16/21	\$23,710
<b>Explorer Sport Trac 4WD</b>	4,349	55 MPH/None	Yes	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	11/15	\$26,480
<b>F-150 4WD</b>	4,349	55 MPH/None	Yes	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	11/15	\$26,480
<b>F-250/350 SD 4WD</b>	5,004	55 MPH/None	Yes <sup>(3)</sup>	Yes <sup>(3)</sup>	14/18	\$24,820
<b>Ranger/B2300 2WD</b>	6,114	55 MPH/None	Yes <sup>(3)</sup>	Yes <sup>(3)</sup>	NR	\$25,470
<b>Ranger/B3000 2WD</b>	3,010	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	24/29	\$14,365
<b>Ranger/B3000 4WD</b>	3,456	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	17/21	\$17,645

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

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

<sup>(3)</sup> Manual transfer case only.

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

## Honda

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Recirculate transmission fluid every eight towing hours.

<sup>(2)</sup> 2004 Model.

## Hummer

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

## Hyundai

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

## Isuzu

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

## Jeep

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

# 2005 Official Towing Ratings

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

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Idle engine for several minutes every 400 towing miles.

## Land Rover

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

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.

<sup>(2)</sup> Tow with 4WD transfer case in Neutral.

## Saturn

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

## Subaru

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

## Suzuki

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Tow with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in 2nd gear.

<sup>(2)</sup> Tow with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in Park.

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

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

## Toyota

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Idle engine for three minutes every 200 miles.