

A guide to 2006-model-year vehicles that manufacturers have indicated can be recreationally towed behind a motorhome without significant modifications.

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 2006 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keep in mind that continued vehicle improvements and production-line changes could alter the information and render it out-of-date.

o casual observers, it would seem that the 2006 collection of vehicles that can be towed four wheels down includes very few changes; however, several automakers have added towable models this year. The majority of manufacturers have indicated to us that there were no changes to their model lineup for 2006. In fact, of the changes we received, most were adjustments in existing models' curb weights.

The most interesting addition is Ford's Escape Hybrid four-wheel-drive SUV. With a system that thrives in "stopand-go" situations, the Escape Hybrid actually uses no fuel when stopped in traffic or driving at low speeds by running in pure electric mode. The vehicle's 330-volt nickel-metal-hydride battery that powers the electric motor is recharged every time the brakes are used. Regarding fuel economy, the vehicle gets an EPA estimated 36 mpg city/31 mpg highway (that's a switch!), although actual mileage will vary based on individual driving habits. And the Escape Hybrid's Intelligent 4WD System is always on and working. So there's no button to push, dial to turn, or lever to engage.

The Escape Hybrid was the first full hybrid SUV in the world, and remains the only hybrid that's been approved



by its manufacturer for flat towing. The electric motor alone is capable of moving the Escape Hybrid smoothly and efficiently up to 25 mph. However, when called upon, the gasoline engine provides added boost when quick acceleration is needed.

DaimlerChrysler's Jeep Division has introduced a new six-passenger SUV for 2006 called the Commander. The Commander is equipped with the same four-wheel-drive systems, suspension, and powertrains as the 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Three engine options are available (with a diesel option likely to be offered later in the year), along with three full-time four-wheel-drive systems. Note: Vehicles with the Quadra-Trac I system are *not* towable.

Another new, smaller SUV is Chevrolet's 2006 HHR. The HHR LS and 1LT trim lines come with a 2.2-liter Ecotec engine, while the 2LT line comes with the larger 2.4-liter Ecotec engine.

Also new to the list this year are the Isuzu i-350 four-wheel-drive pickup truck, and the Lexus IS 250 sport sedan with manual transmission. Also joining the towing lineup in 2006 are the front-wheel-drive, manual transmission Pontiac Vibe, and the front-wheel-drive 2007 Toyota Yaris, which will debut later this year.

Family Motor Coaching magazine's most recent readership survey indicates that approximately 91.5 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

continued

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 (see below).

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 the company 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 and turn on the monitor's switch in the motorhome. 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 (800) 228-2481 or visit www.remcotowing.com.



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	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb	
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)	
Avalanche 1500, 2500 4x4*		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,678	
Cobalt	•		Front-wheel drive	None	2,925	
Colorado 4x4	•		Four-wheel drive	None	4,037	
HHR	•		Front-wheel drive	None	3,132	
Malibu	•	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,297	
Malibu Maxx	•	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,620	
Silverado 4x4*	•		Four-wheel drive	None	4,634	
Suburban 4x4*	•	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,796	
Tahoe 4x4*	•	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,050	
TrailBlazer 4x2**	•	N/A	Rear-wheel drive	None	4,417	
TrailBlazer 4x4**	•	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,007	

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

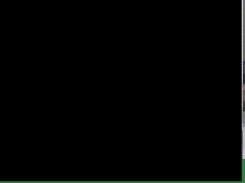
Chrysler

•	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
PT CruiserTouring/Limited/GT			Front-wheel drive	None	3,076
PT Cruiser Convertible Touring/GT		•	Front-wheel drive	None	3,303

Before purchasing a towed vehicle - Tip 1 . . . 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."

^{**}Must have the AutoTrac optional transmission.







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GMC Envoy XL

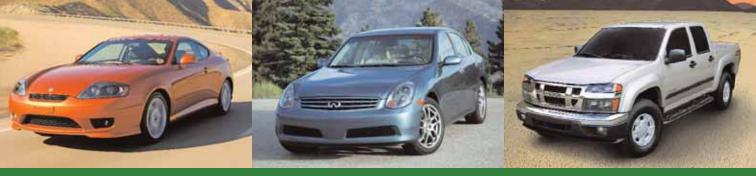
Dodge						
	Transı	mission	Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb	
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)	
Dakota 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	4,652	
Durango 4x4*		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,202	
Neon			Front-wheel drive	None	2,581	
Ram 1500 4x4	•		Four-wheel drive	None	5,568	
Ram 2500 4x4	•		Four-wheel drive	None	6,486	
Ram 3500 4x4	•		Four-wheel drive	None	7,030	
SRT-4		-	Front-wheel drive	65/None	2,900	
Stratus Coupe			Front-wheel drive	None	3,051	

^{*}Only Durangos equipped with the optional two-speed transfer case that has a neutral position can be towed four wheels down. The two-speed transfer case is optional on Durangos equipped with a 4.7-liter V-8; it is standard on Durangos equipped with the 5.7-liter HEMI V-8.

Ford					
	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
Escape 4x4		•	Four-wheel drive	None	3,347
Escape Hybrid		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	3,775
Explorer 4x4 V-6*		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,686
Explorer 4x4 V-8**		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,777
Focus			Front-wheel drive	None	2,783
Ranger 4x2			Rear-wheel drive	55/None	3,051
Ranger 4x4***			Four-wheel drive	55/None	3,508
F-150 4x4****		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,849
F-250/F-350 Super Duty 4x4****			Four-wheel drive	None	7,101

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

^{***}Automatic -- with dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part #3L2Z-7H332-AA). Manual must be equipped 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 4x4). The F-150 requires that the center disconnect be locked out by capping off one of the front axle vacuum motor lines. See a Ford dealer for assistance.



Hyundai Tiburon Infiniti G35 Sedan Isuzu i-350

GMC					
Model	Tran: Auto	smission Manual	Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)
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Canyon 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	4,037
Envoy, XL 4x4		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,969
Envoy Denali, XL 4x4		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,199
Envoy XUV 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	5,097
Sierra 1500 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	5,284
Sierra 2500 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	6,037
Sierra 3500 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	6,552
Yukon 4x4		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,192
Yukon XL 4x4		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	6,073

Hummer					
Model	Trans Auto	mission Manual	Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)
H1 Alpha		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	8,114
H2/H2 SUT		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	6,400
H3			Four-wheel drive	None	4,700

Before purchasing a towed vehicle - Tip 2 . . . make sure to find out

from the dealer, manufacturer, and/or the owners manual how towing will affect the vehicle's warranty.







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Hyundai

•	Trans	Transmission		Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
Accent			Front-wheel drive	None	2,366
Elantra		-	Front-wheel drive	None	2,784
Sonata GL, GLS*		-	Front-wheel drive	None	3,253
Tiburon GS, GT, GT Limited,	SE	-	Front-wheel drive	None	2,898
Tucson 4x2		-	Front-wheel drive	None	3,240
*F					

^{*}Four-cylinder models only.

Infiniti

	Trans	mission	Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb	
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)	
G35 Coupe/Sedan 6MT			Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	3,524	

^{*}After towing 500 miles, idle the engine in "neutral" for several minutes to circulate fluids.

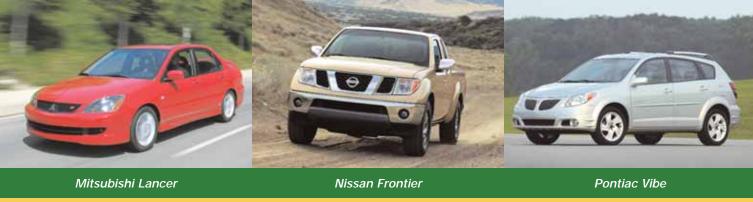
Isuzu

	Trans	smission	Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
Ascender 5-passenger		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,594
Ascender 7-passenger		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,954
i-350		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	3,802

Jeep

эсср	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
Commander, Limited 4x4	•	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,783
Grand Cherokee 4x4		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,441
Liberty 4x4	-	•	Four-wheel drive	None	4,033
Liberty CRD 4x4 (diesel)		N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,306
Wrangler SE I-4 4x4	N/A		Four-wheel drive	None	3,259
Wrangler I-6 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	3,446
Wrangler Unlimited I-6 4x4			Four-wheel drive	None	3,677





Mitsubishi Lancer	Nissan Fror	ntier	Pontiac Vibe		
Kia Model Sorento 4x2 Sorento 4x4	Transmission Auto Manual	Drive Configuration Front-wheel drive Four-wheel drive	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.) None None	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.) 4,149 4,345	Χ Þ
Lexus Model IS 250	Transmission Auto Manual	Drive Configuration Rear-wheel drive	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.) None	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.) 3,455	LEXUS
Model B2300 Regular Cab B3000 Regular Cab B3000 Cab Plus 4 Door B4000 4x4 Tribute i 4x2 Tribute i 4x4	Transmission Auto Manual	Drive Configuration Rear-wheel drive Rear-wheel drive Rear-wheel drive Four-wheel drive Front-wheel drive	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.) 55/None 55/None 55/None 55/None 55/None	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.) 2,999 3,297 3,421 3,662 3,274 3,421	MAZDA
Mitsubishi Model Eclipse Lancer Outlander	Transmission Auto Manual	Drive Configuration Front-wheel drive Front-wheel drive Front-wheel drive	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.) None None None	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.) 2,994 2,656 3,241	MITSUBISH

Before purchasing a towed vehicle - Tip 3 . . . consult your motorhome's owners manual for requirements and information regarding the use of auxiliary braking systems on the towed vehicle.



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Nissan					
	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
350Z			Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	3,400
Altima			Front-wheel drive	60/500*	3,041
Frontier XE 4x2			Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	3,675
Frontier 4x4		-	Four-wheel drive	60/500*	4,419
Maxima		-	Front-wheel drive	60/500*	3,447
Sentra			Front-wheel drive	60/500*	2,719
Xterra 4x2		-	Rear-wheel drive	60/500*	4,192
Xterra 4x4			Four-wheel drive	60/500*	4,402
*All Nicean vehicles. After towing FOO miles, idle the and	ulas la #ass	itral" for an	veral main stop to piros	lata fluida	

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

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Tontiao	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
G6			Front-wheel drive	None	2,701
Vibe		•	Front-wheel drive	None	3,380

Saab

	Iransmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
			-	-	
9-3 Convertible, Sport Sedan, SportCombi		•	Front-wheel drive	None	3,170
9-5 Sedan, SportCombi		-	Front-wheel drive	None	3,370

Saturn

	Transmission	Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto Manu	al Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
ION		Front-wheel drive	65/None	2,752
VUE with I-4		Front-wheel drive	65/None	3,279
VUE with V-6	■ N/A	All-wheel drive	65/None	3,544
VUE with V-6	■ N/A	Front-wheel drive	65/None	3,691

Before purchasing a towed vehicle - Tip 4 . . . weigh it if possible.



Subaru Forester Suzuki Grand Vitara Toyota Yaris

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Model	Auto	smission Manual	Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)
tC			Front-wheel drive	None	2,890
xA			Front-wheel drive	None	2,340
хВ			Front-wheel drive	None	2,415

Subaru					
	Transmission		Drive	Speed/Distance	Approx. Curb
Model	Auto	Manual	Configuration	Limits (mph/mi.)	Weight (lb.)
Baja, Baja Sport, Baja Turbo			All-wheel drive	None	3,610
Forester 2.5 X, XT Limited, X Premium			All-wheel drive	None	3.090
Torostor Elo XI XI Ellintou XI Tornium		_	7 III WI 1001 GI 110	140110	0,070
Impreza 2.5i Sedan, Sport Wagon, Outback Sport			All-wheel drive	None	3,067
Impreza WRX Sedan, Sport Wagon, Limited, STI			All-wheel drive	None	3,294
					,
Legacy 2.5i			All-wheel drive	None	3,265
Legacy 2.5 GT			All-wheel drive	None	3,365
		_			0.045
Outback 2.5i Wagon, Limited		_	All-wheel drive	None	3,365
Outback 2.5 XT Wagon, Limited			All-wheel drive	None	3,500

Suzuki					
Model	Transmission Auto Manual		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)
110401	71010	manual	Johngardton	Emmo (mpirmin)	rroight (ib.)
Aerio Sedan, SX			Front-wheel drive	55/None	2,698
Grand Vitara**	-	•	Four-wheel drive	55/200*	3,682
XL-7		N/A	Four-wheel drive	55/200*	3,825

^{*}Stop towing after 200 miles and follow the manufacturer's instructions to circulate the oil in the transfer case and/or transmission.

^{**}With XSport package or luxury package (four-mode full-time four-wheel-drive system).

Toyota					
Model	Transmission Auto Manual		Drive Configuration	Speed/Distance Limits (mph/mi.)	Approx. Curb Weight (lb.)
Model	Auto	Mariaar	Oomigaration	Limits (inplimit.)	vvcigitt (ib.)
Camry			Front-wheel drive	None	3,108
Camry Solara			Front-wheel drive	None	3,175
Corolla		-	Front-wheel drive	None	2,520
Matrix		-	Front-wheel drive	None	2,679
2007 Yaris			Front-wheel drive	None	2,295