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Exploring *A World Of Wonders*



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A guide to 2021-model-year vehicles that manufacturers have indicated can be flat 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 vehicle owners manuals and pertains only to 2021-model-year vehicles. The information may or may not be correct for earlier or later models. While every attempt has been made to present accurate information, continued vehicle improvements and production-line changes could alter the information and render it out-of-date. **Before purchasing any vehicle, consult its owners manual to determine whether the vehicle can be flat towed behind a motorhome and what procedures must be taken to prepare the vehicle for towing.** And check with the dealer to ascertain whether any service bulletins have been issued to update the owners manual information as it pertains to recreational towing. **Also check with base plate manufacturers to determine whether that component is available for the vehicle you will be towing.** Towing surveys for prior years are available at www.familyrvingmag.com.

The majority of motorhome owners take along another vehicle that they use for transportation once they set up camp. Having a second vehicle eliminates the need to unhook the motorhome when it comes time to explore the local area, and it also provides flexibility for traveling to or parking in places not accessible to motorhomes.

Since 1999, this magazine has published an annual guide intended to assist members in selecting a vehicle to tow. Each guide is specific to one particular model year and focuses on the most popular method of towing — flat towing, or towing four wheels down (as opposed to using a dolly or trailer).

The list that appears on the following pages represents 2021-model-year cars, trucks, and sport-utility vehicles that manufacturers have indicated can be towed four wheels down behind an RV without significant modifications.


BRAND/MODEL UPDATES

Some vehicles from last year's chart have been discontinued, or the 2021 versions are not towable because of design changes. Discontinued models include the Chevrolet Sonic and Ford Fusion. The Chevy Traverse was removed from the list for 2021, because it is being "refreshed" and will relaunch



2021 Towing Lineup



 Lincoln Corsair Grand Touring



↑ Ford Bronco

as a 2022 model. Also discontinued are the Honda Fit and Honda Civic Coupe, the Hyundai Elantra GT N Line, the Kia Optima, and the Lincoln MKZ.

Vehicles with modifications that render them no longer towable include the Buick Envision (different transmission); the Honda Accord (no longer available with a manual transmission) and Honda Civic Sedan LX/Sport (different transmission); the Hyundai Venue (no longer available in a six-speed manual transmission); and the Kia Sorento (different transmission).

Vehicles added to the flat towables list for 2021 include the all-wheel-drive Buick Encore GX; the Chevrolet Trailblazer; the Ford Bronco; and the Lincoln Corsair Grand Touring PHEV with the HF45 automatic transmission.

BEFORE YOU BUY

Towing information may be difficult to obtain directly from the auto manufacturers, and often dealership salespeople don't understand the concept of recreational towing or they have limited knowledge about which vehicles can be towed four wheels down.

That's why it's important to do your homework when it comes to selecting your next towed vehicle. Think of the "2021 Towing Lineup" as the first step in your discovery process. Also, you may want to check the "Technical Forums" at FMCA.com to see whether there have been reports about towing particular vehicles.

Following are some additional guidelines:

1 Before purchasing a vehicle, make sure the dealership representative with whom you are speaking understands that you are looking to tow the vehicle and not to use it to tow a trailer.

2 Next, and perhaps the most important step, is to request that you be shown a copy of the vehicle's owners manual. Once you have the manual in hand, find the section that addresses four-wheels-down towing — often under a heading such as "Recreational Towing." (Do not confuse this with "Emergency Towing," which may be possible four wheels down on a limited basis for emergency purposes only.) This section addresses specific guidelines regarding towing procedures, necessary modifications, and safety issues pertaining to the vehicle. Many manufacturers post owners manuals online, and sometimes, updated versions of the printed manuals become available. If you have a particular vehicle in mind, visit the manufacturer's web-

site and click on the "Owners" link to see whether the manual for that vehicle is available to download.

3 Once you are confident the vehicle is towable and you are comfortable with the towing setup procedures and guidelines, ask a few more questions before making the purchase. Find out from the dealer, manufacturer, or owners manual how towing will affect the vehicle's warranty. Manufacturers sometimes issue revised instructions for flat towing, so ask the dealer rep whether any service bulletins have been released that relate to towing the vehicle behind a motorhome.

4 If possible, have the vehicle weighed. Your motorhome has been given a gross combination weight rating (GCWR), which is the maximum allowable combined weight of the motorhome and the attached towed vehicle. The accompanying charts include approximate curb weights as supplied by the manufacturers; however, optional equipment and accessories can increase the weight of the vehicle. So, make sure that its weight will not push the combined weight above the GCWR. It's also a good idea to weigh your motorhome (see "Weighty Matters," July 2020, page 34, and "Weighing Your RV," July 2014, page 40). 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.

5 Check whether a base plate is available for the vehicle you plan to purchase. The base plate, which must be installed on the chassis of the towed vehicle, provides a secure point of attachment for the tow bar. The primary manufacturers of base plates are Demco (www.demco-products.com; 800-543-3626), Blue Ox

(www.blueox.com; 800-228-9289), and Roadmaster (www.roadmasterinc.com; 800-669-9690).

TOWING EQUIPMENT

Once you've selected a vehicle for towing and determined that a vehicle-specific base plate is available, the next step is to purchase a tow bar and base plate. Several companies sell tow bars with varying convenience and safety features. The most important factor when selecting a towing package is to make sure it is rated to handle the weight of the towed vehicle. Have the initial installation done by qualified and experienced personnel. Once installed, check the equipment frequently and use it only in the manner for which it was designed. As with any mechanical gear, proper maintenance can increase the life 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 the towed vehicle, do not let yourself be distracted. Also, get in the habit of checking the towing equipment each time you stop for fuel or to take a break. Walk around the towed vehicle to make sure the tires are properly inflated and do not exhibit any unusual wear patterns. Perform these safety inspections each time you're stopped and you will decrease the chances of a potential problem while on the road.

Safety is the most important issue for motorhomers when they operate their coaches. That's why, for safety's sake, every motorhome owner who tows a vehicle four wheels down should consider using an auxiliary braking system. Many motorhome, chassis, and automobile manufacturers recommend that

supplemental brakes be used on any towed vehicle.

A question that is often asked concerning supplemental brakes involves the legal ramifications of not using them. Not all jurisdictions mandate supplemental brakes on towed vehicles, but when it comes to four-wheels-down towing, safety should be paramount. Your motorhome's brakes were designed to stop the weight of the coach. Add several

A supplemental brake provides stopping assistance to the tandem, allowing the towed vehicle's brakes to slow the vehicle and reduce the weight inertia that's pushing forward against the rear of the motorhome. Most of us have never heard anyone say that the brakes on their motorhome stop it too quickly. Nevertheless, many of us have seen what happens when brakes don't work quickly enough.

For safety's sake, every motorhome owner who tows a vehicle four wheels down should consider using an auxiliary braking system.



 Buick Encore GX

thousand pounds of towed vehicle weight to the equation, and the motorhome's braking system is being asked to do more than it was intended. The extra weight can reduce the effectiveness of the brakes in emergency stopping situations, as well as lead to premature — and potentially costly — wear on the motorhome's braking system.

Although this guide focuses on vehicles that can be flat towed, there is no single best way to tow. Each vehicle and each method has its 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.

➔ READING 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. A "Yes" in the column under the type of transmission (auto or manual) means that when equipped with that type of transmission, the vehicle is towable; "No" means it is not towable. If the model is not available with a particular transmission, "N/A" appears in the column. The "Approximate Curb Weight" and "Total Length" figures are for a vehicle's base model. "TBD" means that as of press time that piece of information was still to be determined. 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; to be sure, always refer to the particular vehicle's owners manual and check for any technical service bulletins.

BUICK

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Encore GX¹	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	70 mph	3,256 lbs.	171.4 in.

¹ Disconnect the negative battery cable at the battery and secure the nut and bolt. Cover the negative battery post with nonconductive material to prevent contact with the negative battery terminal. Use of a shield mounted in front of the vehicle grille could restrict airflow and cause damage to the transmission.

CADILLAC

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Escalade¹	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,822 lbs.	211 in.
Escalade ESV¹	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,993 lbs.	227 in.

¹ Only four-wheel-drive vehicles with a two-speed transfer case that has a Neutral and a four-wheel-drive low setting can be flat towed. Disconnect the negative battery cable at the battery and secure the nut and bolt. Cover the negative battery post with nonconductive material to prevent contact with the negative battery terminal. Use of a shield mounted in front of the vehicle grille could restrict airflow and damage the transmission.



⬆ Cadillac Escalade



 Chevrolet Trailblazer

CHEVROLET

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Blazer ^{1,4,5}	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	65 mph/None	3,920 lbs.	191.4 in.
Blazer ^{1,4,5}	Yes	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65 mph/None	4,043 lbs.	191.4 in.
Colorado ^{1,2,3}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,671 lbs.	212.7 in.
Equinox ^{1,4}	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	65 mph/None	3,465 lbs.	183.1 in.
Equinox ^{1,4}	Yes	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65 mph/None	3,274 lbs.	183.1 in.
Malibu 2.0-liter ^{1,3,4}	Yes	N/A	Front-wheel drive	65 mph/None	3,223 lbs.	194.2 in.
Silverado 1500 ^{1,2,6}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,620 lbs.	229.5 in.
Silverado 2500HD/3500HD ^{1,2,6}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	6,418 lbs.	235.5 in.
Spark ^{1,3}	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	70 mph/None	2,246 lbs.	143.1 in.
Suburban ^{1,2,3}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,824 lbs.	225.7 in.
Tahoe ^{1,2,3}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,661 lbs.	210.7 in.
Trailblazer ^{1,3}	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	70 mph/None	3,226 lbs.	173.5 in.

¹ Use of a shield mounted in front of the vehicle grille could restrict airflow and cause damage to the transmission.

² Only four-wheel-drive vehicles with a two-speed transfer case that has a Neutral and four-wheel-drive low setting can be towed four wheels down.

³ Disconnect the negative battery cable at the battery and secure the nut and bolt. Cover the negative battery post with nonconductive material to prevent contact with the negative battery terminal.

⁴ Run the vehicle at the beginning of each day and at each RV fuel stop for about five minutes.

⁵ Be sure the transmission fluid is at the proper level before flat towing.

⁶ Disconnect the negative battery cable using the directions in the owners manual.

2021 Towing Lineup

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DODGE

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Durango ¹	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	None	5,313 lbs.	200.8 in.

¹ Only all-wheel-drive models with a two-speed transfer case can be towed four wheels down. Refer to the instructions in the owners manual.

FORD

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Bronco ^{1,2}	Yes	Yes	Four-wheel drive	None	TBD	189.4 in.
Edge ST 2.7-liter ^{3,4}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	65 mph/None	4,525 lbs.	188.8 in.
Escape Hybrid ^{3,5,7}	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	70 mph/None	3,668 lbs.	180.5 in.
Escape Plug-In Hybrid ^{3,5,7}	Yes	N/A	Front-wheel drive	70 mph/None	3,884 lbs.	180.5 in.
Expedition 4x4 ^{1,6}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,623 lbs.	210 in.
Expedition Max 4x4 ^{1,6}	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,794 lbs.	221.9 in.
F-150 4x4 ²	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,700 lbs.	209.1 in.
F-250/350/450/550 4x4 ²	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	6,376 lbs.	238.2 in.
Ranger 4x4 ²	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,354 lbs.	210.8 in.

¹ Requires two-speed transfer case.

² Place the transfer case in the Neutral position to engage the four-wheel-down towing feature.

³ Start the engine and allow it to run for a few minutes at the start of each day and every six hours thereafter.

⁴ Activate manual park release procedure outlined in owners manual.

⁵ Must be equipped with HF45 transmission.

⁶ Must be equipped with 4x4 Low. Place the transfer case in the Neutral position and engage the four-wheel-down towing feature.

⁷ Select neutral tow mode.



↑ Dodge Durango



↑ Ford Ranger



↑ Kia Forte



↑ Lincoln Nautilus

KIA

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Forte FE ^{1,2}	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	2,707 lbs.	182.7 in.
Forte GT Turbo ^{1,2}	DCT	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	3,012 lbs.	182.7 in.
Soul LX ^{1,2}	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	2,802 lbs.	165.2 in.
Soul GT Turbo ^{1,2}	DCT	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,036 lbs.	165.2 in.

¹ Any front-wheel-drive Kia vehicle equipped with a dual-clutch transmission (DCT) or a manual transaxle can be towed four wheels down.

² For four-wheel-down towing, these conditions must be met, according to Kia Technical Services Bulletin number 018 (Rev. 4, 05/24/2019): DCT/transaxle oil is at the recommended level; DCT/transaxle is in correct working order; parking brake is released; gear shift is in Neutral; steering wheel is unlocked with the key in the ignition and in the ACC position; when key is in the ACC position, ensure all accessories are turned off to prevent battery drain, and/or provide 12-volt backup to support battery power; front tires are the same size; tire pressures are equal and inflated to recommended pressure; vehicle is towed from the front.

LINCOLN

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Corsair Grand Touring (PHEV) ^{1,2}	Yes-HF45	N/A	Front-wheel drive	70 mph/None	TBD	180.6 in.
Nautilus 2.7-liter ^{2,3}	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	65 mph/None	4,305 lbs.	190.0 in.
Navigator ⁴	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,884 lbs.	210.0 in.
Navigator L ⁴	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,992 lbs.	221.9 in.

¹ Must be in Neutral Tow mode; tow only in the forward direction; release the parking brake; switch off the welcome lighting.

² Start the engine and allow it to run for a few minutes at the beginning of each day and every six hours or fewer thereafter.

³ Use the manual park release procedure outlined in the owners manual.

⁴ Must be equipped with a two-speed transfer case and slow-climb mode; transfer case in Neutral.

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HYUNDAI

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Accent	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	2,502 lbs.	172.6 in.
Veloster	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	2,701 lbs.	166.9 in.

JEEP

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Cherokee ¹	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	3,875 lbs.	182.0 in.
Gladiator ²	Yes	Yes	Four-wheel drive	None	4,650 lbs.	218.0 in.
Grand Cherokee ³	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	4,625 lbs.	189.8 in.
Wrangler ²	Yes	Yes	Four-wheel drive	None	3,919 lbs.	166.8 in.
Wrangler 4-door ²	Yes	Yes	Four-wheel drive	None	4,167 lbs.	188.4 in.

¹ Only four-wheel-drive vehicles with a two-speed power transfer unit can be towed four wheels down. The power transfer unit must be in Neutral and the transmission must be in Park for flat towing.

² The transfer case must be in Neutral; the automatic transmission must be in Park; and the manual transmission must be in gear for flat towing.

³ Only four-wheel-drive vehicles equipped with a Quadra-Trac II/Quadra-Drive II (two-speed transfer case) can be flat towed. The transfer case must be in Neutral and the transmission must be in Park for flat towing.



↑ Hyundai Accent



↑ Jeep Gladiator



↑ Kia Forte



↑ Lincoln Nautilus

KIA

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Forte FE ^{1,2}	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	2,707 lbs.	182.7 in.
Forte GT Turbo ^{1,2}	DCT	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	3,012 lbs.	182.7 in.
Soul LX ^{1,2}	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	None	2,802 lbs.	165.2 in.
Soul GT Turbo ^{1,2}	DCT	N/A	Front-wheel drive	None	3,036 lbs.	165.2 in.

¹ Any front-wheel-drive Kia vehicle equipped with a dual-clutch transmission (DCT) or a manual transaxle can be towed four wheels down.

² For four-wheel-down towing, these conditions must be met, according to Kia Technical Services Bulletin number 018 (Rev. 4, 05/24/2019): DCT/transaxle oil is at the recommended level; DCT/transaxle is in correct working order; parking brake is released; gear shift is in Neutral; steering wheel is unlocked with the key in the ignition and in the ACC position; when key is in the ACC position, ensure all accessories are turned off to prevent battery drain, and/or provide 12-volt backup to support battery power; front tires are the same size; tire pressures are equal and inflated to recommended pressure; vehicle is towed from the front.

LINCOLN

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Corsair Grand Touring (PHEV) ^{1,2}	Yes-HF45	N/A	Front-wheel drive	70 mph/None	TBD	180.6 in.
Nautilus 2.7-liter ^{2,3}	Yes	N/A	All-wheel drive	65 mph/None	4,305 lbs.	190.0 in.
Navigator ⁴	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,884 lbs.	210.0 in.
Navigator L ⁴	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,992 lbs.	221.9 in.

¹ Must be in Neutral Tow mode; tow only in the forward direction; release the parking brake; switch off the welcome lighting.

² Start the engine and allow it to run for a few minutes at the beginning of each day and every six hours or fewer thereafter.

³ Use the manual park release procedure outlined in the owners manual.

⁴ Must be equipped with a two-speed transfer case and slow-climb mode; transfer case in Neutral.

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NISSAN

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Frontier^{1,2}	No	Yes	Four-wheel drive	60 mph/500 mi.	4,451 lbs.	205.5 in.
Frontier¹	No	Yes	Rear-wheel drive	60 mph/500 mi.	4,225 lbs.	205.5 in.
Versa Sedan¹	No	Yes	Front-wheel drive	70 mph/500 mi.	2,599 lbs.	177.0 in.

¹ After towing 500 miles, start and idle the engine with the transmission in Neutral for two minutes.

² Always flat tow four-wheel-drive Frontier with the transfer case in the 2 HI position.

RAM

MODEL	TRANSMISSION		DRIVE CONFIGURATION	SPEED/DISTANCE LIMITS	APPROX CURB WEIGHT	TOTAL LENGTH
	AUTO	MANUAL				
Ram 1500 TRX	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	6,350 lbs.	232.9 in.
Ram 1500	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,090 lbs.	228.9 in.
Ram 2500	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,829 lbs.	232.0 in.
Ram 3500	Yes	N/A	Four-wheel drive	None	5,869 lbs.	232.0 in.



↑ Nissan Frontier



↑ Ram 2500