

Towing Your Vehicle Behind a Motorhome

Your Element can be towed behind a motorhome at legal highway speeds up to 65 mph (100 km/h). Do not exceed 65 mph (100km/h). Otherwise, severe transmission damage will occur. To avoid damage to the 4WD system, it must be towed with all four wheels on the ground (flat towing).

When purchasing a tow bar, make sure you select a reputable manufacturer and installer. Follow the manufacturer's attachment instructions carefully.

After attaching the tow bar to your motorhome, do the following to prepare your Element for "flat towing":

5-speed Manual Transmission

- When preparing to tow your Element, make sure the transmission is filled to the correct level (see page 232). Do not overfill.
- Release the parking brake.
- Shift the transmission to Neutral.
- Leave the key in the ignition switch and the ignition switch in ACCESSORY (I) so the steering wheel does not lock. Make sure the radio and any items plugged into the accessory power sockets are turned off so you do not run down the battery.

Automatic Transmission

When preparing to tow your Element, make sure the transmission is full of fluid (see page 231). Maintaining the correct level is very important. Do not overfill. Do the following *every day immediately before you begin towing*. Follow the procedure exactly. Otherwise, severe automatic transmission damage will occur.

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- Start the engine.
- Press on the brake pedal. Shift the lever through all the positions (P, R, N, D, 2, 1)
- Shift to D, then to N. Let the engine run for three minutes, then turn off the engine.
- Release the parking brake.
- Leave the ignition switch in ACCESSORY (I) so the steering wheel does not lock. Make sure the radio and any items plugged into the accessory power sockets are turned off so you do not run down the battery.

Extended Towing

If you tow more than 8 hours in one day, you should repeat the above procedure at least every 8 hours. (when you stop for fuel, etc.)

NOTICE

The steering system can be damaged if the steering wheel is locked. Leave the ignition switch in Accessory (I), and make sure the steering wheel turns freely before you begin towing.

NOTICE

Failure to follow the above instructions exactly will result in severe automatic transmission damage. If you cannot shift the transmission or start the engine, your vehicle must be transported on a flat-bed truck or trailer.

NOTICE

Severe automatic transmission damage will occur if the vehicle is shifted from reverse to neutral and then towed with the drive wheels on the ground.

If you tow a Element with an automatic transmission, the transmission fluid must be changed every two years or 30,000 miles (48,000 km), whichever comes first.