

Towing 101

A few things you should know
before getting hitched

So you finally went and did it. You bought that beautiful boat or camper that's been on your wish list for so long. Maybe you've started that part-time home-repair business you've been thinking about since you "retired," and you just had to have a state-of-the-art enclosed trailer for hauling all of your equipment and materials.

Whatever you're going to be towing with your Toyota, it's up to you to do it right and to do it safely.

Presumably, you considered the type of Toyota you drive before buying something that has to be pulled. While it's possible to tow *something* with most any properly equipped vehicle, Toyota's top towing workhorses are the Tundra and Tacoma pickups and the Land Cruiser, Sequoia and 4Runner SUVs.

No matter what you're driving, it's important to remember that it was designed first and foremost to transport

passengers. Everything changes when you go into tow mode—from the way your vehicle handles to how many (fewer) miles it can go on a gallon of gas.

Towing is especially taxing on the transmission, brakes, tires, cooling system and oil. So it's vital to know the towing limitations of your Toyota to be certain your fully loaded trailer doesn't exceed that capacity.

Also, towing-capacity numbers are for sea-level driving, so if you drive in a mountainous area, know that both your engine power and the amount you can

