Chevy adds three car lines to the list and Hyundai comes aboard with its entire lineup

**Brian Robertson** 

Las Brisas

Suzuki Sidekick

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Hvundai Exce

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**Ford Tempo** 

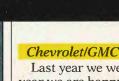


PHOTO: RICH COX

46

SIDEKICI





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Much of the mail we receive at MotorHome involves the towability of a specific vehicle. The best source of this information is the owner's manual that each manufacturer supplies with the vehicle. We

strongly suggest that you carefully read the manual's section on towing before you plunk your money down.

All the vehicles listed in this year's chart are approved by their manufac-



of towing on all four wheels, or if the manufacturer has issued a special



service bulletin, we have included the vehicle on the chart. We do not accept verbal approval, including a car salesperson's! And you shouldn't either!

Be aware that there may be several printings of owner's manuals, and manufac-turers have been known to change their rules in the middle of a model year. The information contained herein is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. It's up to you, when shopping for a dinghy, to always ask to see the manufacturer's towing approval in writing; this will go a long way towards preventing a bad case of buyer's remorse.

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# Dinghy Towing '94

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Las Brisas

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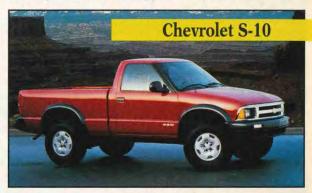
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#### Chevrolet/GMC

Last year we were able to include Chevrolet/GMC S-series trucks and this year we are happy to add three car models from General Motors' Chevrolet

Manufacturer	Curb Weight	Speed/ Distance Limits	Towable w/Manual Transmission	Towable w/Automatic Transmission	EPA Mileage City/Highway	Base Retai Pric
CHEVROLET	J. 198 21		and the state			
Beretta	2649	none	yes	no	20/28	\$12,41
Cavalier	2515	none	yes	no	23/33	8,84
Corsica	2749	none	yes	по	20/28	13,14
DODGE	and and and				page 20	1.4.2
Colt	2085	none	yes	no	28/32	8,97
Shadow	2608	none	yes	no	22/27	8,80
Spirit	2824	none	yes	no	19/24	12,47
EAGLE		100 51 5 10	12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 - 12 -		50 B 10	
Summit 2-door	2085	none	yes	no	32/39	8,1
Summit 4-door	2195	none	yes	no	26/33	9,70
Summit wagon	2734	none	yes	no	28/32	11,95
FORD/MERCURY	S. Montes Mar		1			5
Aspire	n/a	55/none	yes	no	n/a	n
Capri	2210	55/none	yes	no	23/28	13,19
Escort	2325	55/none	yes	no	30/37	10,5
Probe	2690	55/none	yes	no	21/26	13,6
Taurus (SHO only)	3153	55/none	yes	no	18/26	18,14
Tempo	2511	55/none	yes	no	22/27	10,73
Topaz	2531	55/none	yes	no	22/27	11,27
Tracer	2393	55/none	yes	no	30/37	10,25
GEO		Contractor				
Metro	1621	55/none	yes	no	53/58	7,25
HYUNDAI						
Elantra	2500	legal/none	yes	no	22/29	9,74
Excel	2147	legal/none	yes	no	28/36	7,19
Scoupe	2176	legal/none	yes	no	26/36	9,49
Sonata	2813	legal/none	yes	no	20/27	12,79
NISSAN		A DAY AND A	STR. COR			
240 SX	2699	70/500	yes	no	22/28	14,75
300 ZX	3313	60/200	yes	no	18/24	30,09
Altima	2788	70/500	yes	no	21/29	13,99
Maxima	3129	70/500	yes	no	19/26	20,96
Sentra	2266	70/500	yes	no	23/30	8,7
PLYMOUTH		NUMBER OF	State State State	20000	CREW C	No.
Acclaim	2831	none	yes	no	22/27	12,47
Colt	2085	none	yes	no	32/39	8,03
Colt Vista	2734	none	yes##	no	24/29	11,94
Sundance	2608	none	yes	no	26/33	8,60
SATURN	12.00-17		Constant of the last	States and	1 57 74 73	
SC-Series	2304	65/none	yes	yes	23/32	10,99
SL-Series	2320	65/none	yes	yes	26/35	9,19
SW-Series	2367	65/none	yes	yes	25/35	10,89
SUZUKI	No. of Lot of Lo		States and states	State State State	Non Lines	
Swift Sedan	1781	55/none	yes	no	36/40	10,65
Swift Hatchback	1944	55/none	yes	no	29/34	7,54

\* Price without options ## 2-wheel drive only

### **DINGHY TOWING '94**

division; they are the Beretta, Cavalier and Corsica. Chevy announced mid-1993 that it was going to approve these popular cars for towing (see December "Coach & Chassis"),

which will undoubtedly please many GM fans. Note, however, that they must be equipped with a manual transmission. The Chevy S-Series/ GMC Sonoma pickup and Blazer/

Jimmy are approved again in '94 for recreational towing with either manual or automatic transmissions. But, they must be equipped with 4WD and a manual transfer case.

Manufacturer	Curb Weight	Speed/ Distance Limits	Towable w/Manual Transmission	Towable w/Automatic Transmission	EPA Mileage City/Highway	Base Retail Price
CHEVROLET	and the second second	2 A Part I		Wall Salar In the P	ALL ALL ALLA	
S-Blazer 4x4	3221	none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	16/21	\$14,923
S-Pickup 4x4	3310	none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	16/21	10,130
DODGE	······································					34. M (2.8. 3)
Caravan FWD	3306	none	yes	no	20/24	14,819
Dakota	3155	none	yes 4x4 only	yes 4x4 only	16/20	9,560
D-Series Ram	3958	none	yes 4x4 only	yes 4x4 only	13/17	14,389
FORD				William The West	ANG MART AND	
Aerostar 4x2	3558	55/none	yes	no	17/23	19,234
Bronco 4x4	4616	55/none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	13/18	20,890
Explorer 4x2	3679	55/none	yes	no	18/22	16,854
Explorer 4x4	3863	55/none	yes###	yes w/man. transfer	17/21	20,786
F-Series 4x4	3843	55/none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	15/18	17,684
Ranger 4x2	2918	55/none	yes	no	21/24	10,999
Ranger 4x4	3208	55/none	yes###	yes w/man. transfer	21/25	14,470
GEO						
Tracker	2301	55/200**	yes**	yes**	25/27	10,865
GMC						
Jimmy 4x4	3221	none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	16/22	15,639
Sonoma PU 4x4	3400	none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	18/22	12,613
JEEP						
Cherokee	2808	none	yes 4x4 only	yes 4x4 only	19/22	16,832
Grand Cherokee	3574	none	yes	yes	14/18	19,700
Wrangler	2935	none	yes	yes	19/20	13,343
MAZDA						
B-Series pickup 4x2	2918	55/none	yes	no	21/24	8,780
B-Series pickup 4x4	3208	55/none	yes w/man. transfer	yes w/man. transfer	20/23	13,250
Navajo 4x2	3679	55/none	yes	no	18/23	18,505
NISSAN			- The second			
4x2 pickups	3070	60/200/500#	yes	no	23/27	8,995
4x4 pickups	3167	60/200/500#	yes***	no	18/22	12,830
Pathfinder	3520	60/200/500#	yes***	no	15/18	18,090
PLYMOUTH			利益			
Voyager FWD	3306	none	yes	no	20/24	14,819
SUZUKI						
Samurai 4x4	2046	55/200**	yes**	no auto. transfer available	28/29	9,469
Sidekick 2-door 4x4	2197	55/200**	yes**	yes**	24/26	10,999
Sidekick 4-door 4x4	2205	55/200**	yes**	yes**	24/26	11,449

\* Price without options \*\* Manual hubs only. After 200 miles, operate engine one minute with manual transmission in second, automatic transmission in Drive

\*\*\* Transfer case must be left in 2H, transmission in Neutral

# V-6 engine, 200-mile limit; four-cylinder, 500-mile limit

### Electric or manual shift transfer case

### **DINGHY TOWING '94**

The electric-shift transfer box (there is no neutral position) or 2WD models are not approved as tag-alongs.

#### Chrysler/Dodge/Eagle/Plymouth

Chrysler Corporation for 1994 features an extensive lineup of towable cars and trucks marketed under the Dodge, Eagle and Plymouth nameplates. Chrysler Corporation has always supported recreational towing and the '94 model year is no exception. Three manual transmission models are approved that wear the Dodge label; they are the Colt, Shadow and Spirit. Colt is Dodge's entrylevel vehicle that offers great fuel mileage and a low selling price. The Shadow is available in two- or fourdoor versions, as well as a hatchback. Spirit is an intermediate-size four-door that offers more interior room and comfort. Plymouth's Acclaim and Sundance are the counterparts to the Dodge lineup and can be towed if fitted with the manual transmission.

Dodge Ram full-size pickup trucks are making a hit on the market with

their ground-up design changes. Only the 4WD models are towable, but if so equipped, either automatic or manual transmissions are approved. These models will be best pulled with large diesel pusher coaches, since their weight is near 4000 pounds.

If the full-size trucks seem a bit heavy, Dodge's Dakota is nearly 1000 pounds lighter. Four-wheel anti-lock brakes are now available on all Dakota models. Like the full-size trucks, the Dakota is towable only if it's equipped with 4WD. The Dodge Caravan and Plymouth Voyager are popular family vans that seat seven; they are approved for towing only if they are fitted with the manual transmission. The AWD Caravan/ Voyager vans cannot be towed due to the full-time design of the transfer case.

The 1994 model year does see two longtime Dodge mainstays fall by the wayside as production on these ceased at the end of the '93 model year. They are the full-size sportutility Ramcharger and the compact import Ram 50 pickup.



#### Ford/Mercury

In 1994 Ford offers an excellent lineup of cars, trucks and sport utilities from which to choose for towing. Ford's Escort is still one of the most popular dinghies available. The Ford Festiva is no longer available; it will be replaced in the first quarter of 1994 by the Aspire. Aspire will fill the subcompact niche providing ease of towing with its light weight. As of this writing, Ford has not released owner's manuals for this new model, but we were able to get a pre-press copy of the manual's towing guidelines and the new Aspire, when equipped with manual transmission, will be approved for dinghy towing. Curb weights, EPA fuel mileage figures or base sticker-price information were not available at presstime.

If you feel the need for something a bit larger, the Ford Tempo and its sister car, Topaz by Mercury, will provide more interior room and still deliver plenty of fuel economy; both are available with manual transmissions and are fully approved for towing. If it's luxury and performance you're interested in, take a look at the Taurus SHO. This is the only Taurus model with a manual transmission option and it's fitted with an exotic 24-valve Yamaha V-6 that will certainly put the word "fun" back into driving. If the SHO Taurus is a bit too hot, but you're still in a sporty mood, take a look at the Probe. Its sleek design will look good tagging along behind any motorhome. Sporty doesn't stop here; Mercury's Capri is a two-seat sports car that boasts dual air-bags and redesigned ergonomics for passenger and driver comfort. Ford and Mercury cars are towable only if equipped with manual transmissions; there are no automatic transmission models in Ford's car line approved for towing.

If your heart is set on a Ford with an automatic transmission, you need to look at a sport-utility or pickup with four-wheel drive. Ford offers a good selection of vehicles with automatic transmissions but *only* if they are equipped with the manual-shift transfer case. You may have to do some shopping to find this combination, as most dealers tend to order the electric-shift with the automatic transmission.

In past years, no 4WDs with the push-button electric-shift transfer

case were approved for towing regardless of the main transmission type. A new twist from Ford this year is the approval of both Ranger and Explorer models with electric-shift 4WD when equipped with the fivespeed manual transmission. The full-size Bronco and F-150 are fairly heavy vehicles, and they should only be considered if your motorhome is a large diesel pusher with plenty of towing capacity.

This year Ford has put together a comprehensive brochure on towing. It's called the 1994 Ford Recreation Vehicle and Trailer Towing Guide and it is available at local Ford dealers. The guide covers in detail both trailer and dinghy towing, and it specifies that Ford-motorhome-chassis brakes are rated to handle the gross vehicle weight rating (gvwr) plus 1500 pounds, and not the full added weight of a towed vehicle or trailer.

#### Geo

There are two Geo models available for towing. The super-economy champ Geo Metro is not only lightweight but a snap to tow. The XFi model offers super fuel economy; it gets up to 58 miles per gallon, EPA highway rating! The Geo Tracker is a 4WD sport-utility that will give motorhome owners the ability to see the backroads in all types of weather. Both the Metro and Tracker are imported by GM and built by Suzuki. Reader often ask about the Geo Prism. The Prism shares the same platform with the Toyota Corolla, and since Toyota is not endorsing dinghy towing, the Prism will have to remain on the sidelines.

#### Honda

Honda's towing policy has not changed. The company neither endorses nor discourages towing. The owner's manuals read as in the past, hinting that the vehicle may be towable, but not giving approval. So for now, we are waiting to see if Honda will recognize the need to state a specific towing policy in its manuals.

#### Hyundai

This is the first year that Hyundai has officially endorsed dinghy towing; we are glad to have them aboard! Hyundai is known for economy, and the Hyundai Excel has the lowest

## HELLO REMCO-GOOD-BYE DOLLY!

THE PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR TOWING FRONT WHEEL DRIVE AND REAR WHEEL DRIVE AUTO-MATIC CARS AND TRUCKS-Remco's Towing Equipment eliminates the need for an expensive, heavy, inconvenient, troublesome, cumbersome, space-stealing dolly.

#### FRONT WHEEL DRIVE

REMCO'S AXLE-LOCK

With the **Axle-Lock**, a simple twist disconnects the axles on your front wheel drive vehicle from the transmission. Axle-

#### REMCO'S LUBE PUMP

The **Lube Pump** provides a reliable lubrication system for the transmission while your front wheel drive vehicle is being towed. The pump is located under the

#### **REAR WHEEL DRIVE**

REMCO'S DRIVE SHAFT COUPLING The Drive Shaft Coupling lets you disengage the drive

shaft on your rear wheel drive vehicle. A cable from the front

#### NO VISIBLE MODIFICATIONS

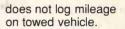
Products are available for towing most GM, Ford, Chrysler, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Mazda, Nissan, Hyundai, Isuzu, Jeep, and Suzuki vehicles.

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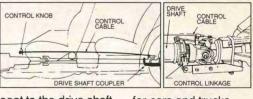


Lock will not damage the drive train and





engine hood and powered by the motorhome. One plug connects the pump and tail lights. Electronic monitor on dashboard controls the system.



seat to the drive shaft coupler lets you shift to drive or tow in seconds. Most units

for cars and trucks can be provided with new replacement drive shaft.



See Reader Service Page

DEPARTMENT M

base price of any model listed on our tow chart. The three-door hatchback is the base model. Its light weight and great fuel mileage will make it very popular among towing advocates. It's also available in a four-door model dubbed the GL. which Hyundai proudly points out is the lowest price four-door car in America. The Scoupe is a sporty subcompact that offers style, performance and handling with an affordable price that won't break the bank. The Scoupe is offered with a normally aspirated 1.5-liter engine and a turbocharged version for those who desire that extra performance kick. If you're looking for a step up from the entry-level subcompact market, take a look at the Elantra. It's a four-door, five-seater that is available in two versions; the base Elantra and the high-line GLS. If the Elantra doesn't offer enough space, check out the roomy midsize Sonata. This is a stylish sedan with premium features that offers both luxury and economy.

Hyundai provides buyers with one of the most comprehensive warranty packages in the industry. A threeyear/36,0000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty is backed by a five-year/ 60,000-mile powertrain and fiveyear/100,000-mile corrosion protection package. On top of this, a threeyear/36,000-mile roadside assistance program and a two-year/24,000-mile service and maintenance program for all regularly scheduled service procedures are standard at no extra charge.

#### Jeep

The Jeep division of Chrysler for 1994 provides a full line of models fully approved for towing behind motorhomes. The Wrangler is Jeep's smallest sport-utility. Its light weight and go-anywhere capabilities with its standard 4WD make it an ideal dinghy for motorhome travelers. The Cherokee lineup has changed slightly this year. Jeep's Cherokee is available in two models, the Sport and Country. The Country is fitted with a new lower body treatment consisting of special bumpers, fender flares and sheet-metal cladding. The grille and headlamp bezels are body-color, adding a bit of class to this popular sport-utility. The Sport has stylish steel wheels, two-tone paint treatment and an anti-scuff lower bodyside molding. The highline Grand Cherokee is available with a 5.2-liter V-8 engine that cranks out 220 hp, channeling the power through a new four-speed, all-electronically controlled transmission. All-terrain tires, skid plates and high-pressure gas shocks make the Grand Cherokee at home on and off the road. Jeep owners' manuals are written in a clear, concise manner that takes motorhome owners through a step-by-step procedure needed to prepare the vehicle for towing.

#### Mazda

Only two models in the Mazda line are approved for towing, and they both fall under the truck category. First is the Navajo, which is a Ford Explorer wearing a Mazda badge, but it's only towable if it's the 2WD model, as the 4WD is available only with an electric-shift transfer case. There is a discrepancy between the Ford Explorer manual and the Navajo. Ford permits towing if the vehicle is equipped with a manual transmission and electric-shift transfer case, while Mazda does not. In discussion with Ford engineers they assure us that there is no difference between the vehicles, and Mazda will be supplied with a dealer service bulletin to correct the error. But for now, we're listing the Navajo as towable only in 2WD configuration, as the owner's manual describes. Second are the B-Series pickup trucks; in 1994 they share design and running gear with the Ford Ranger. Consequently, all the tow requirements of the Ranger should also apply to the B-pickups, but the same situation arises as with the Navajo: electric-shift transfer cases are not yet listed as towable. We'll keep you updated on any changes.

#### Nissan

Nissan's 1994 owner's manuals do not specifically address dinghy towing, but according to spokesman Jim Wayland, things remain status quo for '94 and he refers to service bulletins issued in mid-1991. These technical bulletins NTB91-061 and NTB90-004 cover 1987 through 1991 models, but still apply to the drivelines that are used this model year. Nissan has a distance limit on all of its cars and trucks; it's 500 miles for manual transmission models equipped with the inline four-cylinder engines and 200 miles with the manually shifted V-6s. Once the distance limitations are reached, the engine should be started for a few minutes, or the vehicle driven a short distance to ensure transmission lubrication. Nissan's popular Stanza is now called the Altima; it's been highly touted by critics and should make a fine towed car. The Maxima will fill the luxury niche, while the 240SX will satisfy those who are in



See Reader Service Page

a sporty mood. If you are really feeling your oats, the hot 300ZX is available as a tag along. I've received a few letters about the new Nissan Quest van. It is *not* towable as it is available with only an automatic transmission. Nissan's Hardbody pickups in 2WD and 4WD can be towed, as well as the popular sportutility, Pathfinder. Nissan recommends for 4WDs that the transmission be shifted to neutral and the transfer case left in 2H; for 2WDs the transmission is simply shifted to neutral.

#### Saturn

General Motors' Saturn is a big hit with the dinghy-towing crowd. We've talked with several tow-bar manufacturers this past year and all have stated that Saturn tow accessories are quickly becoming a large percentage of their business. What makes Saturn's models so attractive is that they're all towable, whether fitted with an automatic or manual transmission. The 1994 owner's manual specifically addresses recreational towing and provides clear, concise instructions for pulling your Saturn. Previous year's manuals did not include this section but referred readers to their dealer and Service Information Bulletin No. 92-I-06 issued in June of 1992. This bulletin states that Saturn testing has verified that all Saturn vehicles with auto or manual transmissions can be towed with all four wheels on the ground at normal vehicle speeds less than 65 miles per hour without any range limitations. The transmission must be shifted to neutral and the ignition switch turned to the "ACC" position. Saturn offers a wide variety of vehicles to meet nearly any need from the SL-Series four-door, to the SC coupes and SW-Series wagons.

#### Suzuki

Suzuki is very supportive of dinghy towing and offers several vehicles that are factory-approved for towing. In the automotive line, the Swift is available in either sedan or hatchback models. Both are easy to tow and have high EPA fuel-economy numbers coupled with low prices. This past year Suzuki has touted the Samurai and Sidekick sport-utility vehicles. Both of these are becoming "in" vehicles for towing. They offer 4WD go-anywhere versatility, light weight and a low price to boot.

The owner's manual stipulates that the vehicles must be equipped with manual front-wheel hubs. It also tells you to stop every 200 miles and circulate the oil in the transfer case. To many this is an inconvenience, but there aren't that many drivers who can sit in the saddle for that distance without stopping for a breather anyway.

#### Toyota

After jumping off the bandwagon a few years ago, Toyota still chooses to stand on the sidelines. Toyota officials acknowledge they are looking at the situation and will perhaps start testing vehicles for dinghy towing at the company's new Arizona test track sometime this year. Until then, we can only wait for a policy change.

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