SECTION 4

DRIVING TIPS

Tips for driving in various conditions

- Always slow down in gusty crosswinds. This will allow you much better control.
- Drive slowly onto curbs and, if possible, at a right angle. Avoid driving onto high, sharp–edged objects and other road hazards. Failure to do so can lead to severe tire damage resulting in tire bursts.
  Drive slowly when passing over bumps or travelling on a bumpy road. Otherwise, the impact could cause severe damage to the tires and/or wheels.
- When parking on a hill, turn the front wheels until they touch the curb so that the vehicle will not roll. Apply the parking brake, and put the running mode selector lever into ”P”. If necessary, block the wheels.
- Washing your vehicle or driving through deep water may get the brakes wet. To see whether they are wet, check that there is no traffic near you, and then press the pedal lightly. If you do not feel a normal braking force, the brakes are probably wet. To dry them, drive the vehicle cautiously while lightly pressing the brake pedal with the parking brake pulled. If they still do not work safely, pull to the side of the road and call an EV service station for assistance.

⚠ CAUTION

- **Before driving off, make sure the parking brake is fully released and that the parking brake reminder light is off.**
- **Do not leave your vehicle unattended with the ”READY” light on.**
- **Do not rest your foot on the brake pedal while driving. It can cause dangerous overheating, needless wear, and poor power saving.**
- **To drive down a long or steep hill, reduce your speed and downshift. Remember, if you ride the brakes excessively, they may overheat and not work properly.**
- **Be careful when accelerating or braking on a slippery surface. Sudden acceleration or motor braking, could cause the vehicle to spin or skid.**

- **Do not drive in excess of the speed limit. Even if the legal speed limit permits it, do not drive over 125 km/h (79 mph) unless your vehicle has high–speed capability tires. Driving over 125 km/h (79 mph) may result in tire failure, loss of control and possible injury. Be sure to consult a tire dealer to determine whether the tires on your vehicle are high–speed capability tires or not before driving at such speeds.**
- **Do not continue normal driving when the brakes are wet. If they are wet, your vehicle will require a longer stopping distance, and it may pull to one side when the brakes are applied. Also, the parking brake will not hold the vehicle securely.**

Off–road driving precautions

Your Toyota is an electric vehicle, so avoid driving through water so deep as to have the battery pack, motor, controller and so on flooded. Further, it is not suitable for off–road driving as compared with ordinary off–road vehicles. When it is unavoidable to drive off–road or in rugged terrain, observe the following precautions to minimize the damage to the traction batteries equipped under the floor.

⚠ CAUTION

Always observe the following precautions to minimize the risk of serious personal injury or damage to your vehicle:

- **Drive carefully when off the road. Do not take unnecessary risks by driving in dangerous places.**
- **Do not grip the steering wheel spokes when driving off–road. A bad bump could jerk the wheel and injure your hands. Keep both hands and especially your thumbs on the outside of the rim.**
- **Always check your brakes for effectiveness immediately after driving in sand, mud, water or snow.**
- **When it is unavoidable to drive through tall grass, mud, rock, sand, etc., take care not to damage the traction batteries equipped under the floor. After driving through such terrain, check that there is no grass, bush, paper, rags, stone, sand, etc. adhering or trapped on the underbody. Clear off any such matter from the underbody. If the vehicle is used with these materials trapped or adhering to the underbody, a breakdown or fire could occur.**
- **In a rollover crash, an unbelted person is significantly more likely to die than a person wearing a seat belt. Therefore, the driver and all passengers should fasten their seat belts whenever the vehicle is moving.**
- **Your Toyota is an electric vehicle, so avoid driving through water so deep as to have the battery pack, motor, controller and so on flooded. Further, it is not suitable for off–road driving as compared with ordinary off–road vehicles. When it is unavoidable to drive off–road or in rugged terrain, do not drive at excessive speeds, jump, make sharp turns, strike objects, etc. This may cause loss of control or vehicle rollover causing death or serious injury. You are also risking expensive damage to your vehicle's suspension, chassis and traction batteries.**

NOTICE

- ***Take all necessary safety measures to ensure that water damage to the battery and motor or other components does not occur.***

  Water entering the motor will cause severe motor damage. Water entering the battery pack may cause short–circuit.

  Water can wash the grease from wheel bearings, causing rusting and premature failure, and may also enter the differentials and transmission case, reducing the gear oil's lubricating qualities.
- ***Sand and mud that has accumulated in brake drums and around brake discs may affect braking efficiency and may damage brake system components.***
- ***For scheduled maintenance information, refer to the "Owner's Manual Supplement".***

Winter driving tips

Tips for Cold Weather Driving:
When the traction battery temperature is extremely low (such as when the ambient temperature is extremely low), the power of the vehicle is limited. So the acceleration becomes uneven, or the maximum vehicle speed decreases. Cold weather system such as heating and ventilation will become less effective. At very low traction battery temperature, this SOC meter's and traction battery voltmeter's needles tend to go down faster than usual. So drive your vehicle taking care of the change in the SOC meter and traction battery voltmeter. Strictly observe all warning lights on the instrument panel and stop the vehicle in a safe place when warned to do so. Failure to do so could result in a sudden loss of vehicle power rendering the vehicle undriveable.

Make sure you have a proper freeze protection of coolant.

Your coolant must contain ethylene–glycol type coolant for a proper corrosion protection of aluminum components. Use "TOYOTA Long Life Coolant" or equivalent. See "Checking the coolant level of the traction motor" on page 184 in Section 8–2.

NOTICE

Do not use alcohol type antifreeze or plain water alone.

When it is extremely cold, we recommend to use 60% solution for your Toyota, to provide protection down to about –50°C (–58°F). Do not use more than 70% solution for better coolant performance.

Check the condition of the auxiliary battery and cables.

Cold temperatures reduce the capacity of any auxiliary battery, so it must be in top shape to provide enough power for winter starting. Section 8–3 tells you how to visually inspect the auxiliary battery. Your EV service station and most service stations will be pleased to check the level of charge.

Keep the door locks from freezing.

Squirt lock de–icer or glycerine into the locks to keep them from freezing. To open a frozen lock, try heating the key before inserting it.

Use a washer fluid containing an anti-freeze solution.

This product is available at your EV service station and most auto parts stores. Follow the manufacturer's directions for how much to mix with water.

NOTICE
Do not use antifreeze or any other substitute because it may damage your vehicle's paint.

Do not use your parking brake when there is a possibility it could freeze.

When parking, put the transmission into "P" and block the rear wheels. Do not use the parking brake, or snow or water accumulated in and around the parking brake mechanism may freeze, making it hard to release.

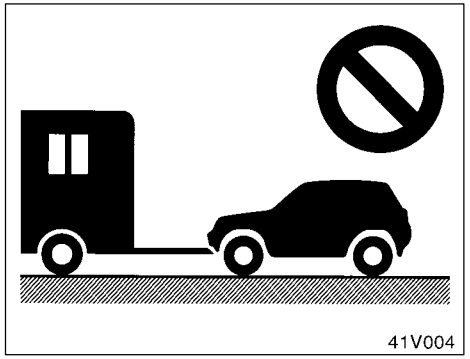
Keep ice and snow from accumulating under the fenders.

Ice and snow built up under your fenders can make steering difficult. During bad winter driving, stop and check under the fenders occasionally.

Depending on where you are driving, we recommend you carry some emergency equipment.

Some of the things you might put in the vehicle are tire chains, window scraper, bag of sand or salt, flares, small shovel, etc.

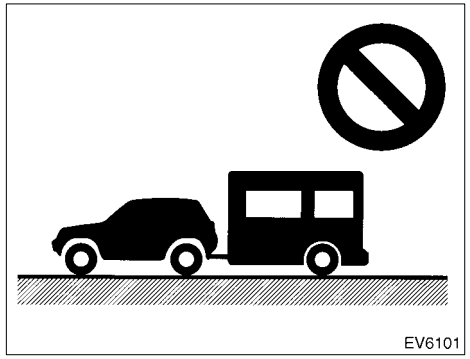
Dinghy towing



Your vehicle is not designed to be dinghy towed (with four wheels on the ground) behind a motorhome.

NOTICE
Do not tow your vehicle with four wheels on the ground. This may cause serious damage to your vehicle.

Trailer towing



Toyota does not recommend towing a trailer with your Toyota. It is not designed for trailer towing.

How to save electric power and make your vehicle last longer, too

Improving fuel economy is easy—just take it easy. It will help make your vehicle last longer, too. Here are some specific tips on how to save money on both power and repairs:

- **Keep your tires inflated at the correct pressure.** Underinflation causes tire wear and wastes power. See "Checking tire pressure" on page 186 in Section 8–2 for instructions.
- **Do not carry unneeded weight in your vehicle.** Excess weight puts a heavier load on the traction motor, causing greater electric power consumption.
- **Accelerate slowly and smoothly.** Avoid jackrabbit starts.
- **Avoid continuous speeding up and slowing down.** Stop–and–go driving wastes power.
- **Avoid unnecessary stopping and braking.** Maintain a steady pace. Try to time the traffic signals so you only need to stop as little as possible or take advantage of through streets to avoid traffic lights. Keep a proper distance from other vehicles to avoid sudden braking. This will also reduce wear on your brakes.
- **Avoid heavy traffic or traffic jams whenever possible.**
- **Do not rest your foot on brake pedal.** This causes premature wear, overheating and poor power saving.
- **Maintain a moderate speed on highways.** The faster you drive, the greater the electric power consumption. By reducing your speed, you will cut down on power consumption.
- **Keep the front wheels in proper alignment.** Avoid hitting the curb and slow down on rough roads. Improper alignment not only causes faster tire wear but also puts an extra load on the traction motor, which, in turn, wastes power.
- **Keep the bottom of your vehicle free from mud, etc.** This not only lessens weight but also helps prevent corrosion.

- **Keep your vehicle tuned–up and in top shape.** Brakes not adjusted, etc. will lower motor performance and contribute to poor power saving. For longer life of all parts and lower operating costs, keep all maintenance work on schedule, and if you often drive under severe conditions, see that your vehicle receives more frequent maintenance.

⚠ CAUTION

Never turn off the traction motor to coast down hills. Your power steering and brake booster will not function unless the motor switch is at ”ON” position.