

Towing Update: Towing of Mini Cooper and Cooper S Vehicles with Wheel-Lift

In the current editions of the vehicle owner's manual for Mini vehicles, towing with wheel-lift equipment from the front is shown as acceptable. While some wheel-lifts may be usable for towing these vehicles from the front, the vast majority of wheel-lifts do not allow the tires to be seated in the cradles tightly enough to avoid damage to the aluminum oil pan and/or undercarriage.

For this reason, the *AAA/CAA Towing and Service Manual* recommends only the use of flatbed car carrier equipment for transporting these vehicles. If a wheel-lift must be used in an emergency situation, a dolly should be placed under the front wheels to avoid powertrain damage, with the cradles installed tightly against the tires for maximum vehicle-to-dolly clearance and the vehicle secured to the tow dolly using wheel straps. The vehicle may then be lifted and towed from the rear, only if adequate clearance can be maintained between the vehicle and the wheel-lift crossbar components.

Source: Roy Cox
August 23, 2005