

smart Car Tie-down for Toy Haulers

By Dave Gray

Ironically, I purchased a set of four "SmartStraps" from Walmart. They are rated for 1,000 pounds and the break strength is 3,000 pounds. I strap the smart down with an X pattern from the four wheels.

Note: The configuration of the D-rings in your garage floor may be different.

In my 4012, there's two D-rings at the rear that I attach the straps from the front wheels, criss-crossed. I have to use the two outer D-rings in the middle section to strap down the rear wheels, criss-crossed. You may be able to use the two front D-rings for your setup.

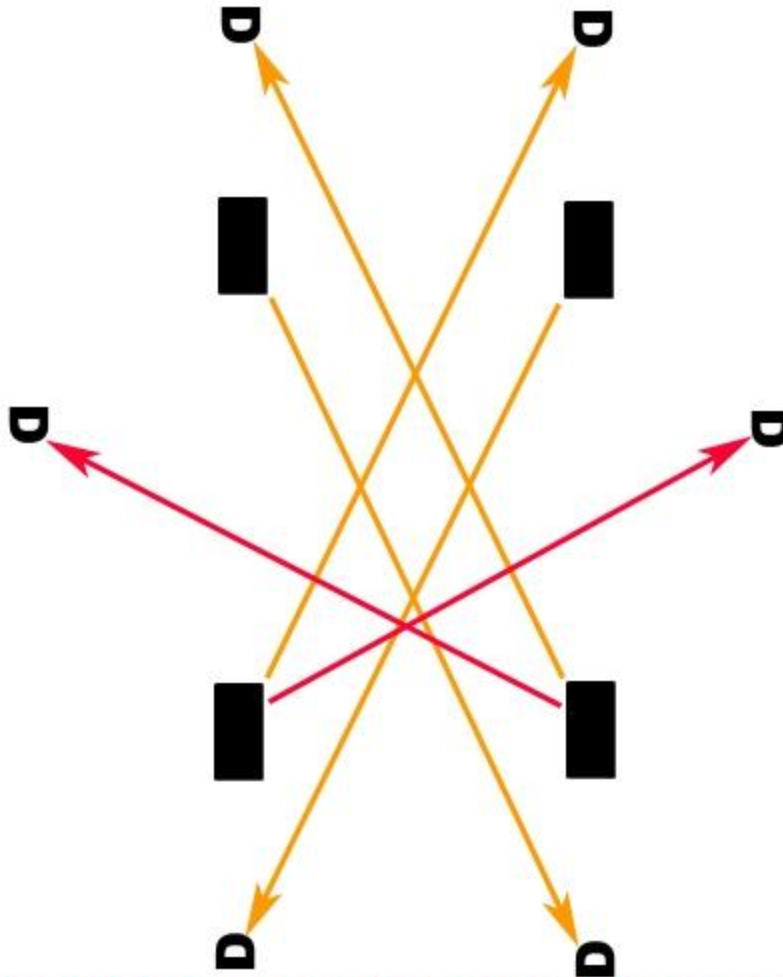
Run the straps only through the wheels. If you have a smart with wheel covers, you'll probably have to remove them. According to one of the smart car forums, I read not to attach the straps anywhere on the axle system, etc.

Because of space usage in the front of my garage, the rear tires are positioned slightly on the ramped edge of the garage floor. I install the straps on the rear wheels first and tighten slightly. Then I release the parking brake to allow the weight of the car on the straps. Then I install the front straps and tighten. If you're going to park all wheels on the flat portion of the garage, then it doesn't matter what you tighten down first.

For safety reasons, I always keep both windows down and the key in the ignition. I've traveled nearly 8,000 miles with this configuration and I've never had a problem.

It does not matter if the trailer is hooked up to your tow vehicle or not when driving the smart into the garage. Also, the rear stabilizers are not required to be down at any time when driving into and out of the garage.

Recommended Smart Car Tie-down in Toy Haulers



(Red) Tie-downs optional if not using front D rings.
Not drawn to scale.

