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› [Toyota](#) /

› [2021 Toyota Highlander Owner's Manual](#)

Toyota Highlander

2021 Toyota Highlander Owner's Manual

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Introduction

This owner's manual provides detailed information regarding the operation, features, and maintenance of your 2021 Toyota Highlander. To ensure safe and proper use of your vehicle, please read this manual thoroughly before operating the vehicle. Keep this manual in your vehicle for quick reference.

Understanding the contents of this manual will help you maximize your driving experience, maintain your vehicle's performance, and ensure the safety of all occupants.



Image: The front cover of the 2021 Toyota Highlander Owner's Manual, displaying the vehicle model and title. This manual serves as the primary reference for all vehicle functions and maintenance procedures.

Getting Started and Initial Setup

Before your first drive, familiarize yourself with the basic controls and settings of your Highlander.

Vehicle Familiarization

- **Seat Adjustment:** Adjust the driver's seat for optimal comfort and visibility using the controls located on the side of the seat.
- **Steering Wheel Adjustment:** Adjust the steering wheel's tilt and telescopic position for a comfortable driving posture.
- **Mirror Adjustment:** Adjust the side mirrors and rearview mirror to ensure clear visibility of the areas around your vehicle.
- **Dashboard Indicators:** Understand the meaning of various warning and indicator lights on the instrument panel. Refer to the 'Dashboard Indicators' section for detailed explanations.

Key Fob Operation

- **Lock/Unlock:** Press the lock or unlock button on the key fob to secure or open the vehicle doors.
- **Panic Alarm:** Press and hold the panic button to activate the alarm in an emergency.
- **Remote Start (if equipped):** Follow the specific sequence in your manual to remotely start the engine.

Operating Your 2021 Toyota Highlander

This section covers the essential functions and features for driving your Highlander.

Driving Controls

- **Starting the Engine:** Insert the key and turn to the 'START' position, or press the 'ENGINE START/STOP' button while pressing the brake pedal.
- **Gear Selector:** Understand the 'P' (Park), 'R' (Reverse), 'N' (Neutral), 'D' (Drive), and 'S' (Sport/Sequential) positions.
- **Parking Brake:** Engage and disengage the parking brake as needed, typically an electronic button or a foot pedal.
- **Headlights and Wipers:** Operate the headlight and windshield wiper stalks for appropriate lighting and visibility.

Infotainment System

- **Audio System:** Tune to radio stations, play media from connected devices, and adjust volume.
- **Navigation System (if equipped):** Input destinations and follow turn-by-turn directions.
- **Bluetooth Connectivity:** Pair your mobile phone for hands-free calls and audio streaming.
- **Apple CarPlay/Android Auto:** Connect your smartphone for integrated app access.

Safety Features (Toyota Safety Sense 2.5+)

- **Pre-Collision System (PCS):** Detects vehicles and pedestrians, providing warnings and automatic braking if necessary.
- **Lane Departure Alert (LDA) with Steering Assist:** Warns if the vehicle drifts from its lane and can provide corrective steering.
- **Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC):** Maintains a preset speed and a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.
- **Road Sign Assist (RSA):** Displays certain road sign information on the multi-information display.
- **Automatic High Beams (AHB):** Automatically switches between high and low beams based on traffic and lighting conditions.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and optimal performance of your 2021 Toyota Highlander.

Scheduled Maintenance

- **Oil and Filter Change:** Refer to your maintenance schedule for recommended intervals, typically every 5,000 to 10,000 miles or 6 to 12 months.
- **Tire Rotation:** Rotate tires every 5,000 to 7,500 miles to ensure even wear and extend tire life.
- **Fluid Checks:** Regularly check engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, power steering fluid (if applicable), and windshield washer fluid levels.
- **Brake Inspection:** Have your brakes inspected periodically for wear on pads, rotors, and calipers.
- **Air Filter Replacement:** Replace engine and cabin air filters as recommended to maintain engine efficiency.

and cabin air quality.

Basic Checks You Can Perform

- **Tire Pressure:** Check tire pressure monthly using a reliable gauge. Refer to the placard on the driver's side door jamb for recommended pressures.
- **Exterior Lights:** Periodically check that all headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals are functioning correctly.
- **Wiper Blades:** Inspect wiper blades for cracks or tears and replace them if they are not clearing the windshield effectively.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

This section provides guidance on addressing minor issues you might encounter with your Highlander.

Warning Lights

- **Check Engine Light:** If this light illuminates, it indicates a potential issue with the engine or emissions system. Consult a qualified technician.
- **Low Tire Pressure Warning:** Indicates one or more tires are significantly underinflated. Check and adjust tire pressures immediately.
- **Oil Pressure Warning:** If this light comes on, stop the vehicle safely and turn off the engine. Check the oil level and seek professional assistance.

Engine Starting Issues

- **Engine Cranks but Won't Start:** Check for sufficient fuel, ensure the battery is charged, and verify the immobilizer system is not active.
- **Engine Does Not Crank:** This often indicates a dead battery. Check battery terminals for corrosion or loose connections. Jump-starting may be necessary.

Electrical Problems

- **Fuses:** If an electrical component (e.g., radio, power window) stops working, check the relevant fuse in the fuse box. Replace blown fuses with one of the same amperage.

For any persistent or serious issues, it is recommended to contact an authorized Toyota service center for diagnosis and repair.

Specifications

Key technical details for the 2021 Toyota Highlander Owner's Manual document:

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Specification	Detail
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Warranty and Support

Your 2021 Toyota Highlander comes with a comprehensive warranty package. Details regarding specific coverage periods and terms can be found in the separate Warranty and Maintenance Guide provided with your vehicle. It is important to review this document to understand your coverage.

For technical assistance, service appointments, or warranty inquiries, please contact your authorized Toyota dealership. They are equipped with trained technicians and genuine Toyota parts to provide the best service for your vehicle.

You can also visit the official Toyota website for additional support resources, FAQs, and to locate a dealership near you.