

TRUCKS 2018



New Safety Features

Pickup trucks are becoming extremely popular among American drivers. According to Car and Driver, Ford sold more than 820,000 F-series trucks in 2016. To put this in perspective, that's more than double the sales of the top-selling passenger car, the Toyota Camry.

Thanks to this popularity, manufacturers are constantly refreshing their current vehicles. Trucks are becoming more fuel-efficient, powerful and most importantly, safer than ever.

Check out what a couple of the industry's giants are offering for their popular pickups in 2018.

FORD F-150

While a new F-150 won't drive itself, Ford is getting closer with each model year. The new offering of its best-selling pickup truck will feature a segment-first adaptive cruise control with stop-start across its powertrain line-up.

This new-to-trucks feature works by matching the equipped F-150's speed with the vehicle in front of it. Speeds will automatically adjust to keep a safe distance, and the vehicle can even apply the brakes completely in emergency situations.

According to the American Automobile Association, adaptive-cruise control systems may help prevent 13,000 crashes per year. While it's still important to keep your eyes on the road, ACC can give you a leg up in safe driving.

The 2018 F-150s will also be among the first pickups to offer a pre-collision alert system, which is used to detect



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pedestrians, lane keeping and blind-spot monitoring.

Some safety features are only available on higher-trim levels, so ask your local dealership to find the half-ton truck with the options most important to you.

TOYOTA TUNDRA

For 2018 models, the Toyota Tundra will become the first pickup truck to feature automatic emergency braking as a standard feature.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

suggests that AEB systems represent the next wave of significant advances in vehicle safety. Thanks to Toyota, what was an option is now part of the base package of one of its most popular vehicles.

AEB works by notifying a

driver to take corrective action to avoid an impending crash. If the response time will not prevent a collision, the system will automatically take control of the brakes to assist in preventing or reducing the seriousness of a crash.

2018 Diesel Updates

Many pickup enthusiasts have a special place in their heart for light-duty diesel trucks. This is largely due to the extra power these vehicles feature over their gas counterparts, making towing large loads more achievable.

For years, diesel engines were also known for their better fuel economy. That isn't the case anymore, as gasoline engines are starting to catch up.

These days, automakers must remain innovative and strive to impress with each offering in order to stay relevant in today's changing market.

FORD F-150

That's right, the country's best-selling pickup truck for 40 years, is getting the diesel treatment. Available in Spring of 2018, the F-150 powered by a 3.0L Power Stroke will roll into showrooms and interstates across America.

While Ford is still being tight-lipped on the exact specifications the smaller Power Stroke will offer, it's speculated that it will be on par with other light-duty diesel trucks.

Aside from the announcement of the engine option, the F-150 won't receive any major upgrades. Higher-end trim levels will feature a minor update to the vehicle's tailgate, Bang and Olufsen Stereo System and adaptive cruise control.

TITAN XD

Nissan has several exciting options for its midsize truck featuring the 5.0L Cummins turbodiesel. In 2018, the brand will offer these trucks with three different body styles,



including the King Cab which seats at least six and has wide-opening rear doors.

The standard cab model features a towing capacity of 12,640 pounds.

The new Midnight Edition package, which is only available on diesel-powered Crew Cab SV and SL, Titan XDs is

sure to catch attention. The special-edition trim incorporates exclusive black wheels, black mirrors and dark accents where chrome was once prominent.

COLORADO

The midsize truck from GM is getting noticeable upgrades

to its suspension system. Pairing the new ZR2 package with the 2.8L Duramax will make off-roading much more enjoyable than previous models.

ZR2 is a factory off-road trim which offers front and rear-electronic locking differentials, Multimatic DSSV

dampers, making the Colorado feel comfortable while traveling rocky roads, high-speed bursts and in general commute.

The diesel truck is also getting technology to assist in towing. With the Active Tow feature, the truck will align with a trailer, making a connection is easier than ever.

All About Luxury

This year, expect to see manufacturers stepping up the level of luxury they add to their pickups. Many pickup drivers rely on the truck's power to safely haul building materials to a job site, pull a horse trailer or take their boat out to the lake.

They also want a vehicle that will remain durable under heavy stress but still clean up nicely when they take their family out for a night on the town.

Automakers understand the need to blend luxury and durability into their truck options. In 2018, expect to see luxury updates unlike any before in the pickup industry.

These trucks are a few of the upcoming highlights that have people talking.

FORD F-450 SUPER DUTY

Luxurious may be an understatement when it comes to Ford's new F-450 Super Duty.

What is said to be the most expensive mass-produced pickup to ever drive off an assembly line, the truck is rated to tow up to 15 tons.

It is also expensive. By choosing all the incredible options, consumers can expect to pay around \$100,000 for this amazing truck.

Ford has stated that it sells more than half of its Super

Duty trucks to consumers rather than corporate fleets. This inspired Ford to offer the new F-450 with its Limited trim option, which is popular with its F-150 series.

The incredible interior is treated with two-tone leather seats, and a leather-wrapped steering wheel and instrument cluster. It is an incredibly comfortable cabin, which allows drivers to conduct business or spend quality time with friends and family in style.

RAM 1500 LIMITED, TUNGSTEN

According to its MSRP, the Tungsten Edition Ram will top the 1500 series in expense at \$62,995 when all options are checked.

This luxurious truck comes with a 5.7-liter Hemi and aggressive exterior features, such as blacked-out headlamps, running boards and a sport hood.

The interior features suede headliners, trim made from



real wood, a heated steering wheel and power-adjustable pedals with memory. The new

trim level will help Ram compete with the growing luxury offered by Ford and GM.

The Tungsten Edition also is available for the Ram 2500 and 3500 pickups in 2018.

Trucks Aiding Police Forces

Are police cars becoming a thing of the past? Probably not, but law enforcement agencies heavily rely on trucks for rugged, off-road driving. Pickup trucks are a necessity for stations that require a vehicle that is pursuit-rated on and off the road.

The “big two” automakers are making a splash in 2018 by designing their popular half-ton series trucks specifically for police fleets. See what’s in store and the power behind the new pickups. You might see them out keeping your community safe.

2018 SILVERADO SSV

This police truck shares the same 5.3-liter V-8 as General Motor’s Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle.

GM claims this engine is the most fuel-efficient V-8 offered for full-size trucks. Agencies appreciate the fuel savings as their budgets are tight, and any extra funds can be used toward keeping their officers and neighborhoods safe.

The Silverado SSV separates itself from its passenger-truck counterpart with an enhanced-braking system, upgraded transmission-oil cooler and a beefier charging system to power the intricate electrical system a police vehicle requires.

The interior features vinyl seats that are liquid resistant. You might see your police department patrolling the streets in the new GM Silverado SSV in the summer of 2018.

FORD F-150

Ford has a rich history in providing pursuit vehicles to



police departments around the country. The Police Interceptor has been offered in the automaker’s line of sedans and SUVs, but never their trucks.

For the first time, Ford will offer a new Police Responder

based off the F-150 FX4 off-road model. It’s sure to make a difference in police stations across the nation.

These new police vehicles will feature Ford’s 3.5L EcoBoost V6 motor matched with a 10-speed automatic

transmission, giving it a 7,000-pound tow capacity.

The 18-inch aluminum wheels and all-terrain tires mean this four-wheel drive truck will have no problem keeping up on off-road pursuits.

Ford’s first F-150 Police Responder will begin showing up in police departments in 2018. The popular half-ton truck promises to be up to the challenge of performing under the heavy duress required for its special purpose.

Are Trucks Going Hybrid?

Hybrid vehicles have found their place in America but mostly in small passenger cars. However, some manufacturers are experimenting with the innovative system in their trucks.

Don't be surprised if the hybrid option becomes a staple in popular pickups over the coming years.

Some automakers already have hybrid trucks available, and others are working to perfect the technology to meet the demands that pickup enthusiasts want from their vehicles.

Take a look at the current efforts and upcoming plans from some of the most popular vehicle manufacturers in the world.

FORD

Ford is making big news this year by offering the first diesel engine for its best-selling F-150. The automaker has confirmed another huge offering for 2020, when its half-ton pickup will receive the hybrid treatment.

An interview with Bloomberg, by Ford's vice president of product development and purchasing, Hau Thai-Tang, hints that the hybrid F-150 will feature a bat-

tery that not only provides power to the truck but may double as a portable generator.

While there are still a few years before the details become concrete, expect Ford to make a huge impact on the hybrid world in 2020.

GENERAL MOTORS

In 2005, General Motors released a Parallel Hybrid Truck to its Silverado lineup. It was hardly a true-hybrid and

was poorly received. The company then halted production for the 2009 model year and went back to the drawing board.

In 2009, the manufacturer reattempted its efforts with a 2-Mode hybrid option. The Silverado had a 6.0-liter V8, mated with a four-speed automatic/electrically variable transmission.

While reception was more positive than the first attempt,

the trucks were nearly \$40,000, which was a tough pill to swallow for consumers already trying to save money on fuel.

Today, there is eAssist. In 2016, GM began offering this "mild" hybrid feature which provides automatic stop/start capabilities thanks to a regenerative braking system.

While the vehicle cannot propel itself solely on electric power, it appears that General Motors is well on its way to

figuring out a completely hybrid truck.

HONDA

Honda has a strong presence in hybrid efforts thanks to the popularity of its lineup.

At the 2017 Detroit auto show, the company revealed it will be adding a dedicated hybrid pickup to its lineup. The company's plans are still under wraps, but expect to hear about specifics soon.



Half-Ton Towing Leaders

Henry Ford is credited with the first factory-built pickup truck in America. He had a vision to create vehicles that would help commercial customers transport items around their jobsites.

Over many years, pickups have advanced greatly, but they still stay true to their original purpose: hauling.

One of the first things pickup enthusiasts look at before they consider purchasing a truck is its towing capacity. Automakers are constantly trying to one up each other by creating the half-ton truck that can haul the most.

Check out the 2017 leaders in towing for regular-sized pickups. Keep in mind, these ratings are based on the maximum options to reach the top capabilities. Check with your dealer to find out which configuration will get you these results.

1: CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500

Best-in-class towing of 2017 belongs to the half-ton Silverado. Chevrolet paired a V8 engine with an eight-speed automatic transmission reach a capacity of 12,500 pounds.

Towing is easily accomplished with little strain on the truck thanks to the available Trailer-Sway Control and a brake controller as options.

2: FORD F-150

Ford leads many best-in-class lists, thanks to its F-150, including America's best-selling pickup truck for several decades. However, it found themselves second in towing, trailing GM's leading truck by



300 pounds.

The 2017 F-150 with a new 3.5-liter twin-turbocharged V6 engine reached a towing capacity of 12,200 pounds. The truck features advanced technology that makes towing easier, including Dynamic Hitch

Assist, Trailer Backup Assist and Trailer-Sway Control.

3: RAM 1500

The 2017 Ram found itself falling behind its domestic counterparts with a towing capacity of 10,690 pounds. This

figure improved from 8,370 pounds from 2016.

The improvement to the Ram 1500 is powered by a 5.7-liter V8 engine, and available air suspension makes towing a comfortable experience for both driver and passengers.

Your local dealerships should have information on 2018 towing capabilities from the big three. Expect to see the popular automakers keep their competitors on their toes with advancements in technologies and overall hauling power.

Family-Friendly Pickups

While the off-roading capabilities of the Ford F-150 Raptor or the Tacoma with the remarkable TRD package might be alluring, these extreme trucks might not be the best option if you're looking for a family vehicle.

However, manufacturers are taking safety, convenience and comfort seriously.

For families with young children, vehicle safety is of the utmost importance. It is usually followed by the concern of appropriate size and functionality. Consider asking yourself these questions as you prepare to buy your family's new truck.

HOW ARE THE SAFETY RATINGS?

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety makes researching safety ratings simple. Vehicles are graded by how well a vehicle protects its occupants in a crash and available technology used to prevent an accident or reduce its severity.

Its vehicle ratings also test LATCH evaluations, which reveal how easy the included child-restraint installation hardware is to use. This is extremely important for families with children who require car seats to understand.

Modern trucks are coming out with technology to assist in reducing the risk of accidents. Look for features like parking-assist systems, lane-departure warnings and backup cameras.

IS THERE AMPLE ROOM?

All of today's popular trucks are offered with a crew cab, meaning there are at least five usable seats.

The available cabin space should satisfy the needs of most families. These large interiors will keep passengers comfortable on family vacations, by providing plenty of legroom and headroom for everyone inside.

DO YOU NEED EXTRAS?

Pickup trucks are loaded with gadgets and technology that make traveling the highways more tolerable for young children. It's important to be honest with your budget when you're considering the upgrade to higher-end trim levels.

In fact, even base trucks come stocked with plenty of incredible conveniences, such as Bluetooth media centers and ample charging ports for the little ones' electronics.

However, if you have the room in your budget, higher-end options can include wireless headphones, Wi-Fi capabilities, rear-seat DVD players and even upgrades to the speaker system.

The bottom line is that today's pickup trucks can make great family vehicles.

