



© CHEVROLET



© NISSAN



© FORD



© CHEVROLET

2020 TRUCKS



© FCA



© HONDA



© HYUNDAI



© TOYOTA

A Big Year for Big Trucks

In the last several years, the big three automakers have made significant upgrades to their half-ton trucks.

Elaborate body changes, roomier interiors and cutting-edge technology have led to exciting innovations in the market. For 2020, Ford and GM are updating heavy-duty models to catch up with their lighter counterparts.

FORD F-SERIES SUPER DUTY

The 2020 Super Duty is receiving epic upgrades both cosmetically and under the hood. The brand-new, best-in-class, 7.3 gasoline engine, referred to as “Godzilla” by Ford, will be available in new models. According to Car and Driver, the aggressive V-8 motor is rated for an impressive 430 horsepower and 475 pounds-feet of torque.

Time will tell if this will mark the end of the automaker’s long-standing V-10 gasser, but it’s expected to be a popular option for drivers who want power without the expense of a diesel motor. For PowerStroke enthusiasts, the third-generation 6.7-liter engine has been rejuvenated to enhance combustion and noise levels with newly designed injectors. The manufacturer also redesigned the variable-geometry turbocharger to enhance throttle response.

Physical enhancements increase the strength of the cylinder head, block and its rods and bearings. The automaker states this beefed-up diesel can seam-

lessly tow up to 37,000 pounds with a gooseneck and 24,200 pounds with a conventional setup.

The F-Series Super Duty trucks are also offering enhanced LED headlights, lane-keeping alerts and blind-spot detection with trailer coverage, wireless charging for devices and redesigned interiors for different trim levels.

GM HEAVY DUTY

One of the most anticipated upgrades for General Motors trucks is the new 6.6-liter V-8 gasoline engine. It exceeds its popular 6.0-liter predecessor by boasting an impressive 401 horsepower and 464 pounds-feet; an increase of about 41 horsepower and 84 pounds-feet of torque. The Duramax 6.6-liter diesel is still optional and will be paired with a 10-speed automatic.

The gains in power aren’t the only growth you will notice in the new inception of GM Heavy Duty; the trucks are physically larger too. They are 1.6 inches taller, 1.4 inches wider and a whopping 10.4 inches longer.

With durability in mind, the stock u-joints are beefier, the prop shaft is reinforced, and rear axles feature an impressive 11.5-inch ring gear on the three-quarter-ton trucks and 12 inches on the 3500HD.

New for the HD series is an innovative viewing system called Transparent Trailer View. With the use of multiple cameras and cutting-edge technology, drivers can view the road behind them while the towed vehicle is virtually invisible.



© FORD



© CHEVROLET

Epic Safety Features

While trucks were once regarded as workhorses in American history, today, they are luxurious vehicles capable of both business and pleasure.

Since the pickup market has drastically grown in popularity, automakers are including more driver-friendly features to benefit safety and durability. Make sure to ask the salesperson at your local dealership about the packages that include these exciting safety features in the upcoming lineup.

F-150

Ford's popular half-ton truck is loaded with innovative safety enhancements that are efficient in assisting a driver during their daily commute. Here are a few highlights.

Auto high-beam headlights: This incredible system detects low-visibility conditions and automatically engages high beams for better vision. It also activates the dim function when it detects the headlights of an oncoming vehicle.

Adaptive cruise control: Next-gen cruise control lets a driver set their desired speed before the system takes over, speeding up and slowing down based on actions from

other vehicles in the vicinity.

BLIS: Checking blind spots before changing lanes demands you to take your attention from the road for a risky few seconds. Ford's information system alerts drivers when other cars are detected near the truck and even alongside a towed trailer.

GM

General Motors is labeling their newest half-ton pickup as the "strongest, most advanced Silverado ever." Check out some of the awesome safety features you can expect.

Automatic emergency braking: Cameras and sen-

sors examine and detect potential front-end collisions with other vehicles. The system will either apply emergency braking efforts or enhance driver braking.

Following distance indicator: The National Safety Council recommends following the three-second rule when following vehicles. GM offers an innovative system that alerts its driver of their following distance and suggests leaving a larger gap.

DODGE

The Ram lineup has more to offer than a 12-inch infotainment center, spacious interiors and an aggressive

appearance. The automakers behind this popular truck have loaded it with safety features to assist drivers on the road.

360° surround view camera: A backup mirror is helpful, but the 2020 Ram uses cameras to give those inside a view of their entire surroundings. This provides great assistance when towing or hooking up a trailer.

Advanced airbag technology: The new Rams have six-standard airbags protecting both passengers in the front seat and extending down the side of the entire cabin. With adaptive venting technology, airbag cushions



even adapt to the passenger's size to lessen the severity of a crash.



© FORD

Considering Cab Space

Thanks to the incredibly spacious interiors of modern pickups, families are no longer tied to minivans or large SUVs.

If you're in the market for a new truck this year, rest assured, there is a model that fits your unique needs. Keep in mind that cab and bed size variations can dramatically increase the cost of a base pickup, so plan your budget accordingly.

When you're visiting lots or researching vehicles on a dealership's

website, it's important to understand common terms used to describe cab sizes. Here are a few common styles to familiarize yourself with.

REGULAR CAB

This traditional-style pickup features two front doors and offers a single row of seats. Most models are fairly limited in interior space as there is little room behind the driver and passenger. While there are many regular cab trucks on the road, many prefer their small quarters for operating fleets or work trucks.

EXTENDED

While it's still not a full-size cabin,

extended cabs do offer those in the back a little more room. Many are fitted with regular size front doors but feature smaller rear-hinged doors that allow access to the back seat. This configuration doesn't always offer backseat passengers the most legroom, but it is capable of offering extra storage space if you need it.

CREW

The crew cab pickup is becoming a popular option because of how much room passengers have. With full-size front and rear doors and seats, there is ample room for usually four or five people. In some newer full-size cabins, rear seats can even recline offer-

ing a more comfortable ride.

MEGA

This monstrosity of a cabin is found exclusively in Dodge trucks, but other manufacturers are creating their own inceptions. While it offers four full-sized doors, the interior portion of the truck is extended a full 11 inches longer than the crew cab.

BEST OPTION

When deciding which cabin is right for your needs, be honest about how you plan to use the truck. For some larger interiors, you may have to sacrifice bed size since wheelbases can only be a certain length to be effective.

Electric Trucks

With rumors of an electric F-150 and reports from Reuters about GM planning an \$8 billion dollar investment in developing electric vehicles, electric vehicle competition is heating up.

Mid-size trucks like the Colorado and Canyon inspired other manufacturers to build more compact pickups, its apparent there is a new division for automakers to compete in. While it may be a few years before we see some prototypes in development, there are a few truck makers with more firm plans.

RIVIAN R1T

Startups have become all the rage in American and the automotive industry is no different. Formed in 2009, Rivian's electric efforts are already catching the eyes of big investors; \$700 million from Amazon and \$1.7 billion from Ford.

While they haven't technically sold their first vehicle, the 2021 R1T is expected to launch and its projected specifications are sure to impress both electric and fuel-operated truck enthusiasts. Here are some highlights from Rivian.

- Up to 400 miles on a single charge.
- 0-60 in three seconds.
- Ability to wade in water up



© TESLA

to 3 feet.

- Will feature up to 750 horsepower.
- It's rugged durability and compact size is expected to provide an amazing performance both on highways and off-road.

ATLIS XT

The XT truck is more fit for the full-size pickup market and will be offered with battery packs that allow 300, 400 or 500 miles per charge; a full charging session only takes 15

minutes. Visually, this beast is impressive. It features a slim, sleek grille paired with an innovative headlight and day-time-running light display.

One missing staple of modern vehicles is the lack of side mirrors on the XT. Instead, the truck is equipped with HD cameras that display the view behind on each side of its steering wheel. If the included 6.5-foot or optional 8-foot beds don't offer enough space, there is an additional cargo in the hood department.

TESLA

It's impossible to talk about electric trucks without mentioning powerhouse Tesla. Late in November, they released the specifications of their upcoming pickup, due in late 2021. Its unprecedented triangular body is wrapped in the same "Ultra Hard 30X Cold-Rolled stainless-steel" that the group uses on its SpaceX Starship Craft, rendering it bulletproof.

It will be available with three different powertrains: Single and double-rear wheel drive,

dual-motor all-wheel drive and tri-motor all-wheel drive with the latter expected to go for 500 plus miles on a single charge.

Towing capacities range from 7,500-14,000 pounds depending on the chosen powertrain. And of course, Elon Musk didn't stop there. Outdoor enthusiasts may be interested in picking up Tesla's electric ATV, dubbed Cyberquad, which conveniently fits in the back of the new Cybertruck.

Tips for Buying a New Truck

If you are unfamiliar with owning a pickup, it's important to research before investing.

While trucks are efficient machines that provide exceptional accessibility to pleasure, towing and as work companions, buying too much of a vehicle can be irresponsible to your budget.

Consider how much power you need, the cost of maintenance and drivetrain configurations that work best for you. Have a list of necessities that a new model must meet to avoid being enticed by a luxurious truck that far exceeds your needs.

TOWING CAPACITIES

Are you buying a pickup to tow heavy campers and trailers or are you interested in obtaining a daily driver? Towing capacities are greatly enhanced by choosing more powerful engines and chassis sizes that increase horsepower and accessible torque; upgrades also enhance the asking price.

Consider how much weight you foresee yourself pulling and choose the configuration from there. For many smaller loads and pull-behind campers, half-ton towing capacities will be more than suitable. When you require a towing vehicle for gooseneck or fifth-wheel trailers, it's viable to seek more heavy-duty options.

BED LENGTH

Much like choosing the

right cabin space is important, pay attention to the length of the bed as it could dramatically change the way you drive. Especially if you are accustomed to smaller cars or SUVs, an eight-foot bed can be difficult and dangerous to manage. If you invest in the larger size, expect to have limited options when it comes to parking or handling in tight corners.

Consider the size of materials you will typically be hauling. Purchasing a longer truck for "just in case" situations can leave you with more vehicle than you need, at a cost that doesn't make sense.

GASOLINE OR DIESEL

You will also be faced with deciding between gasoline and diesel engines when researching your new pickup truck.

Automakers have long used biodiesel in their heavy-duty models but in recent years, even the light-duty market is saturated with smaller versions of the PowerStroke, Duramax and an Eco Diesel from Ram.

While a benefit of diesel engines is their increased towing capacities and accelerated torque abilities, the maintenance costs can far exceed that of gasoline.



© FORD



© RAM



© GENERAL MOTORS

Major Titan Upgrade

While the Nissan Titan is an impressive truck, it has long played second fiddle to domestic trucks from the big-three manufacturers.

For 2020, the import truck has been given significant upgrades both inside and out. If this is your year to buy a brand-new pickup, give this black sheep some serious consideration.

DRIVETRAIN ENHANCEMENTS

Returning in 2020 is the popular 5.6-liter Titan Endurance V-8 engine that proudly boasts 400 horsepower and an impressive 413 pounds-feet of torque. New this year is the nine-speed automatic transmission, which replaced the previous seven-speed. The new transmission is optimized with enhanced gear ratios to boost acceleration while towing and offer better fuel efficiency and smoother shifting.

INTERIOR REDESIGN

Luxurious finishes and exceptional high-tech features are perhaps the largest upgrades the new Titan features. While a seven-inch information display is standard, higher trim levels include an impressive nine-inch WXGA resolution screen. Drivers are spoiled with an internal Wi-Fi router and



© NISSAN

on-board software updates to ensure the infotainment center is kept up to date.

New models also feature more storage than its predecessors. Look for additional room in front and rear door storage. Perhaps the most exciting updates are the available dual-panel panoramic moonroof. Passengers are treated to one of the largest in class moonroofs with measurements exceeding three feet square.

EXTERIOR UPGRADES

Nissan is calling the reimagined Titan a powerful warrior design, and it's clear to see why.

With three different interlocking grilles and updated bumpers and badges, it appears more intense than previous models. Available LED lighting adds to its aggressive appearance and visibility when driving at night. The Japanese group says the lights used in its

Platinum Reserve trim will shine 120 percent brighter in low-beam mode than previous Titans.

SAFETY FEATURES

If safety is your main concern, the 2020 Titan will have exactly what you're searching for. Check out the six advanced driver-assist systems that are standard in each trim level.

- Automatic emergency braking with pedestrian

detection.

- Blind spot warning.
- Rear cross-traffic alert.
- Lane departure warning.
- High beam assist.
- Class-exclusive rear automatic braking.

Some other impressive available options toward safety include systems like traffic sign recognition, intelligent cruise control, intelligent driver alertness and intelligent forward collision warning.

Aftermarket Accessories

There is no question, 2020 trucks are loaded with high-tech safety, aggressive exteriors and spacious interiors. Automakers have been attempting to one-up each other each year as the pickup industry grows in popularity.

The aftermarket has taken notice and stepped their game up in offering impressive accessories to give your new truck its personality. After bringing your pickup home from the lot, consider equipping it with impressive options to make it more of your own.

ALL-WEATHER FLOORMATS

With the high cost of today's pickups, it's no doubt that you'll want to protect your investment. Consider equipping your new truck with quality floormats that encapsulate the entire floorboard and keep outside elements from staining its flawless carpet. Aftermarket manufacturers are efficient in creating custom floor-board protection that is built by make and model. Talk to your dealership's parts department or a local auto parts store to find the all-weather protection your investment deserves.

TONNEAU COVER

Sure, the bed of your pickup



TRUCK HARDWARE/CREATIVE COMMONS

is meant to for hauling different materials to and from the workplace or home. That shouldn't mean that its pristine paint job should be compromised from dings and chips you come across during daily driving. A quality tonneau cover is less intrusive than a camper top and can be easily rolled out of the way to make room for loads. When

searching for a quality cover, it's important to know the exact bed size to find the perfect fit.

SEAT COVERS

If you're not interested in the included seat design or are looking for more comfortable padding like memory foam, consider investing in a new set of covers. Application-specific

options are custom made to cover the existing seats and offer protection or a new level of comfort without any special installation procedures.

NERF BARS

When your heavy-duty truck sits too high from the ground, ascending and descending can feel like a chore. Look for no-drill nerf bars for assistance

to gain access to your new pickup. Some options are built to bolt into existing holes left by the manufacturer and will require zero modification. If you must tap into the body or chassis, you should consider hiring an expert to complete the process, so you don't void your warranty or cause unnecessary damage to your brand-new truck.