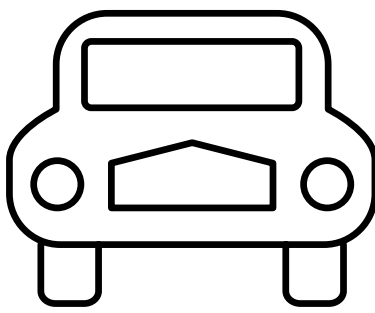
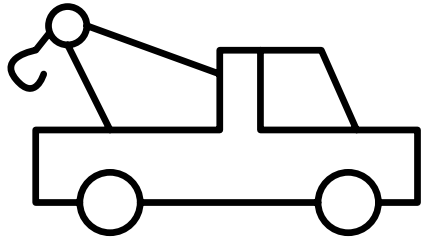
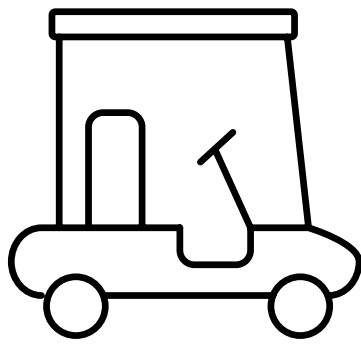
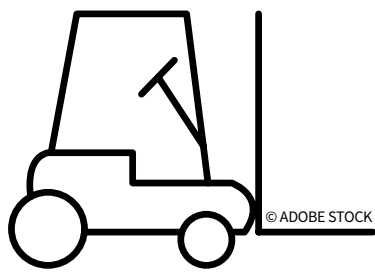
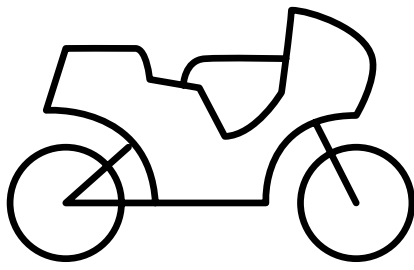
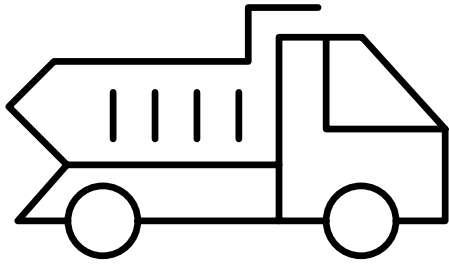
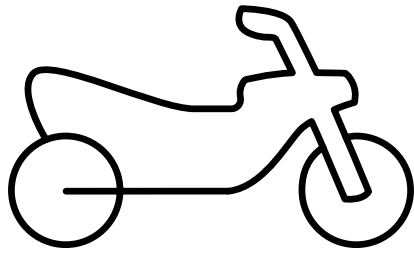
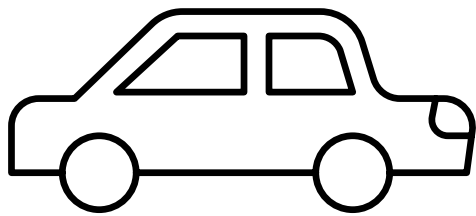
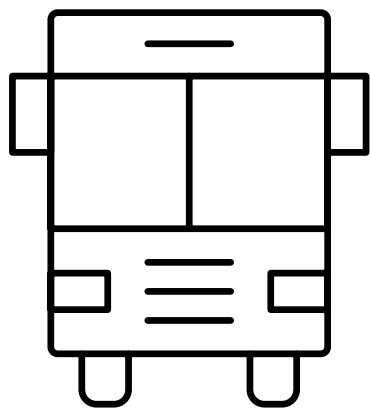
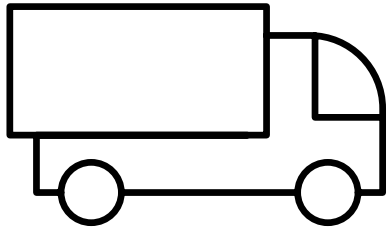
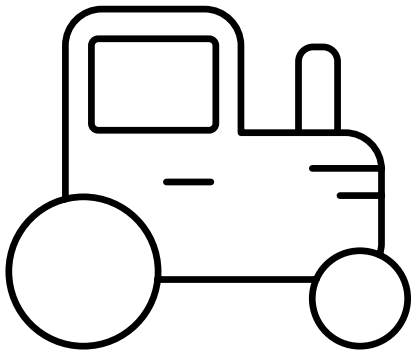
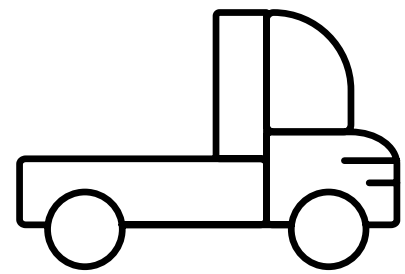


# EVERYTHING ON WHEELS



# All Kinds of Trailers

**T**rucks are great for hauling. When used safely, trailers are a great addition to your pickup. You may be surprised with the many options available.

When hauling a trailer, use special care to protect yourself and others. Make sure to perform a pre-trip check, confirming the trailer is properly connected to the hitch and both brake lights and turn signals are working.

If you're unfamiliar with pulling a trailer, it's a good idea to practice in an open space like a parking lot. Take the time to back up into spaces and learn how it functions during turns. Understanding how to take a corner can take some fine tuning to avoid turning too tight.

Take a look at some of the most popular types of trailers on American highways.

## UTILITY TRAILER

This trailer comes in many different sizes and will be helpful in towing nearly anything. Smaller models are great options to bring along lawn care equipment or compact items from the home improvement store that may damage the paint in a pickup bed. Most modern models feature a drop gate which allows you to easily roll heavy appli-

ances or furniture on with a dolly. If you are in need of a little extra space and could use a general purpose hauler, this is the perfect addition.

## DECK-OVER TRAILER

More of a commercial use

trailer, most of these models feature two rear axles to support the weight of heavy-duty equipment or vehicles. There are many different configurations to purchase, including four-, eight- and even twelve-wheel setups. You should also

make sure your pickup can safely tow the weight of the trailer and the cargo you tie to it.

## CARGO TRAILER

Cargo or enclosed trailers are useful for commercial and

recreational needs. Many contractors invest in this style as their equipment is safely locked away. Recreational uses include bringing along your favorite motorcycle or ATV to a location when you can't ride it to the destination.



© ADOBE STOCK



# Dually Trucks

In the world of heavy-duty pickup trucks, the dually is king. Incorporating four wheels on the rear axle improves braking performance because of increased tread contact on road surfaces. They are also a great companion to those towing heavy loads as the truck's wider stance provides increased stability.

If you're in the market for a new truck, keep in mind that a dually is built for work and may not make sense as a daily driver. In addition to being more expensive than a four-wheel option, they will also offer less fuel economy and aren't as comfortable unless there is a heavy load behind it. However, if a dually is the perfect option to benefit your business or recreational towing, here are some advantages and disadvantages to weigh before driving to the lot.

## PROS

When navigating the highways with a heavy load behind you, a tire blowout can be extremely dangerous. In the instance where one tire does become compromised, the remaining equipment helps to stabilize the control of the truck until it is safely stopped. Also, tires are protected as the load is more evenly distributed, leading to a steady wear pattern. Duallys also do a better job pulling trailers and controlling sway.

## CONS

While many Americans choose to drive a dually for pleasure, there are increased maintenance costs, drivability concerns and decreased fuel economy to consider.



© FORD

Make sure to take a thorough test drive at the dealership. Notice the differences in turning and parking in tight

spaces, it's more difficult than in traditional trucks.

You also should plan for expensive maintenance and

repairs. A tire rotation involves the entire roster of wheels, causing an increased labor charge. When it comes

time for replacements, it is usually recommended to change all six, which can be a sizable investment.



# Micro-Mobility Vehicles

The ride-hailing industry, services like Uber and Lyft, was valued at \$36,450 million in 2017. As app-based services are growing in both large and small cities in America, there is a new competition gaining popularity.

Pay-as-you-go vehicles are showing up in areas to provide consumers with a quick way to navigate around town. These innovative services solve the congestion problem that busy cities face. Companies offer pedestrians different modes of transportation like electric scooters and bicycles that unlock with the swipe of a card or bump of a smart device.

An enticing part of most of these services is the ability to grab a vehicle nearly anywhere you visit within a city. They are GPS tracked and can be left behind when you reach your destination, giving other riders access after you park. Learn more about the recent boom and controversies surrounding the popular new industries.

## E-SCOOTERS

You may have noticed an influx of electric scooters zip-

ping around the city you live in or visit. Companies like Bird, Lime and even Lyft are attempting to lessen traffic and the need for personal vehicles. The first report of these scooters being deployed was in 2017, when Bird launched a fleet in Santa Monica, California. Most electric-scooter companies charge a flat fee of a dollar to get start-

ed, then charge per minute.

For Americans who require transportation for a quick errand, the convenience of ride-sharing vehicles is much more accommodating than hailing a driver or putting miles on their own car. Since the inception of the scooters is relatively new, local legislation has difficulty creating regulations that are fair to providers

while promoting safety for riders.

## BIKE SHARING

Another popular pay-as-you-go option found in major cities are both manual and electric bicycles. According to the National Association of City Transportation Officials, the service provided 35 million trips in 2017. Somewhat new

to the industry is the introduction of dock-less bikes. Consumers can find the location of vehicles through GPS tracking software from an app and drop the bicycle off at most locations. A unique way company's keep track of their investments is by offering incentives toward charging and redistributing their fleet to the public.



© ADOBE STOCK

# Baby Strollers

For mom and dad, any product that offers convenience is a blessing. Strollers give parents an extra hand while they navigate their children on relaxing rides or performing chores at businesses around town. If you're awaiting a newborn's debut, finding the perfect model can be overwhelming with so many available options.

When deciding which model is right for your family, you must consider the types of terrain you will be traveling and the purpose it will fill. You may spend a lot of money on strollers that have all the bells and whistles but can wind up owning a stroller with unneeded features. Be honest with your budget and must have add-ons before purchasing.

Once you determine which style of stroller best meets your needs, you can begin researching the features that manufacturers offer. Here are a few different options to consider.

## SINGLE STROLLER

This model works best for parents who intend to use it for a single child. If you plan to reuse this stroller as you add to your family down the road, be sure to check the manufacturer's expiration date before placing a new baby in the seat. To get the most value out of a single unit, make sure it is compatible for infants and converts to a sturdy stroller for toddlers. Many options require an additional insert before it can safely hold a newborn.

## DOUBLE DUTY

Parents of twins or children of similar age and size can enjoy a double stroller for years. They typically feature large rear wheels and a smaller



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front-swivel tire to assist in steering.

When navigating children of different weights, be sure to maintain control as the unit may tend to pull toward the heavier side. Even if you

intend to use it for one child at first, it can be a better value to invest in a double if you plan on having another kiddo soon.

## ALL-TERRAIN STROLLER

Fitness is important to new

moms and dads, and finding time to fit it into the hectic schedule of parenthood can be challenging. Many all-terrain strollers are great for jogging sessions and hiking trails.

They are typically more expensive than their general-purpose counterparts, but introducing physical fitness to you children at a young age can be a lesson they carry for life.



# Military Vehicles

**M**odern technology has certainly changed the way automobiles serve as vessels to protect our country. Here are a few of the most mind-blowing concept vehicles looking to add security to American forces.

## GENERAL MOTORS GOING STEALTH

Revealed at the 2017 Association of the United States Army Exhibition was a familiar mid-size truck packed with modifications to make it military appropriate. The Chevrolet Colorado ZH2 is unique as it relies on hydrogen fuel cells rather than traditional combustible fuels.

Another innovation the ZH2 accomplishes is stealth. The hydrogen cells can significantly reduce heat signatures that opposing forces use to disclose locations. Its powertrain system is also incredibly quiet, allowing soldiers to navigate areas without announcing their presence.

## REIMAGINING THE TANK

With their imposing structures and aggressive weaponry, tanks have a dominant place in American conflicts. Last year, it was revealed at military exhibitions that advancements may turn these giants into ATV-sized units while remaining just as powerful.

Early concepts of this innovative type of tank shows a sealed cockpit to protect soldiers and the use of virtual and augmented reality rather than windows to see the battlefield. This will be obtained with special sensors and cameras wrapping around the vehicle to provide an immersive view.



© CHEVROLET

## SILENTHAWK MOTORCYCLE

The SilentHawk is a two-wheel drive, all-terrain motorcycle that is nearly silent

during operation. This enables it to catch enemies by surprise and perform reconnaissance without being noticed. It is also compatible

with numerous types of fuels to make finding resources less difficult. When soldiers switch to electric mode, silent operation is engaged. Development

partners Alta Motors and Logos Technologies claim the SilentHawk can travel for two hours in quiet mode on a single charge.



# Recreational Vehicles

If you haven't noticed the recreational vehicle boom, then it's likely been a while since your last road trip. America's highways are full of RVs traveling across the country for the next adventure.

Are you on the hunt for fun, convenience and reliability? Then look no further than your local RV dealer.

## TYPES OF RVS

There is an RV for every preference. Finding one that fits your needs should be easy with the help of an experienced RV dealer.

Motorhomes typically come in Class A, B or C and offer the most space, but other options include travel trailers, fifth-wheel trailers and pop-up trailers.

Keep in mind that the larger the RV, the more maintenance and working parts. If you're just starting on your RV research, consider things like size, cost, functionality and longevity before making your final decision.

## RV BENEFITS

There's nothing like unplugging for a long road trip across the country. RVs give you the freedom to stay



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where you want when you want, as well as offering the convenience of having an onboard bathroom and kitchen.

If you want to plug in again, however, most new models are fitted with mobile Internet, Wi-Fi boosters, navigation systems and even sat-

ellite television to make sure your RV experience isn't totally off-grid.

## THE RV LIFESTYLE

Thinking about joining the RV club? You aren't alone.

First-time buyers made up 34 percent of RV purchases in 2016, according to the

Recreational Vehicle Industry Association. A typical RV owner is in their early to mid-40s, according to the report, and the demographics continue to skew younger every year.

Owning an RV doesn't have to break the bank. A recent CNN report found that tow-

ables are the market's best sellers and can typically be found for under \$10,000. The average motorhome starts around \$65,000.

Check in with your local RV dealers to find out more on pricing and features in your market. Then hit the road for your next adventure.



# Wheelchair Accessible Vans

Customizing a full-size van gives wheelchair-bound Americans a sense of independence and freedom by providing an easy way to enter and sometimes operate their own vehicle.

If you or someone you know avoids getting out because of the difficulty, consider finding a professional in your area to add specialized equipment to a van of your choice.

## FINDING AN AFFORDABLE VAN

If you don't already have a suitable van to be converted, your first step should be to seek an affordable option that is capable of employing wheelchair-accessible features. Here are some ways to cut costs when buying a vehicle, from the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association.

Search for mobility dealerships who accept used vans as trade-ins for resale. You may even find a vehicle in the showroom that has already been converted.

Dealers with rental departments are also a good location to visit, as they will typically sell their vehicles at a discounted price once their tenure is finished.

If you plan to buy used from a private party, it's important to inquire with a mobility equipment installer to ensure the van is capable.

If you need financial help to afford a van and the conversion process, don't be afraid to reach out to your local community for assistance.

Check with your state officials

to see if legislation offers disability grants that lower the cost. Local chapters and charitable organizations may also be helpful by setting up fundraisers or asking for donations from members.

## THE CONVERSION PROCESS

When discussing your plans with an installer, you will usually have a few options to consider.

You will usually get to decide if you enter the vehicle from the side or rear. In most cases, rear-entry conversions are less expensive and don't add as much weight to chassis components located in the center of the vehicle.

If you need a van that allows you to drive without the use of your legs, installing hand controls is a must. Typically, controls are mounted below the steering wheel, giving full access to brake and acceleration controls. Be sure to test different setups to find the one you are most comfortable with.

Your vehicle may require undercarriage modifications to support the extra weight of a conversion. Keep a record of the upgrades if you change components like brakes, shocks or axles. If your vehicle requires repair away from your normal mechanic, you will have an easier time tracking down parts.

