



10 Most Ridiculous Myths People Still Believe About Pickup Trucks

Myths about pickup trucks have been around for decades and been debunked many times, but somehow people still believe them.

BY VINCENT MUZZIO

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Pickup trucks have been around since the early 1900s and gained in popularity over the years. Trucks actually dominate America's 10 best selling vehicles. The popularity of the truck has also brought along its fair share of myths, mostly outdated and based on trucks from earlier generations.

These myths range from poor fuel economy to some people believing that trucks are only for farms and country use. Myths have been debunked over and over again but somehow people

about trucks being gas guzzlers. Some of these myths might be hard to bust, but maybe with enough knowledge, someday they will be history.

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Myth: Poor Fuel Economy



Trucks have a reputation for being horrible when it comes to fuel economy. This myth is based on the fact that trucks were at one point heavy, non-aerodynamic, and had large inefficient engines. For example, the 1975 Ford F-100 averaged 10.7 mpg. Compare that to the 2021 F150 at a combined 19 mpg with the V8 and 21 mpg with the V6 EcoBoost you can see the improvements that have been made.

 2022 Ford Maverick - Ford Media

Visit Ford

With several trucks clocking average mpg between 23 and 26 mpg it can finally be time to put the fuel economy myth to bed for good. Not to mention the introduction of hybrid and fully electric trucks coming into the market. These trucks have more torque than a standard combustion engine and get far greater fuel economy, or no fuel even needed in the fully electric trucks. There are even 8 new fully electric pickup trucks coming in 2021 and 2022.




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Myth: Pickups Are For Men

 Women And Trucks - Peakpx

Via: Peakpx

Pickup trucks are not just for men. Women love trucks and own them all around the world. Vehicles are not assigned a certain sex or gender that can only drive or enjoy it. Marketing used to be aimed at men and focused on men driving trucks. Society picked up on this and kept it going. There was a perception that a truck was just too big and rugged for a woman to drive. Women can drive anything a man can and they have proved it over and over again.

 Women And Trucks 2 - Peakpk

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Women are professional race car drivers, stunt drivers, mechanics, and car builders. Women like to do the same things in trucks that men do. This includes off-roading, restoring, racing, and putting them in auto shows to show off their work and win awards. Not all women do all these things though. Some just want a truck because they love the look of it or they need it for work. Whatever it is, trucks are certainly for women and men alike.

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Myth: Trucks Are Not Safe

 Truck Safety - IIHS

Via: IIHS

Trucks used to be considered unsafe due to things such as rollover risk. The truth behind the myth is that trucks were, in fact, unsafe many years ago, but so were cars. Over the years there has been a huge focus on automotive safety and trucks have come a long way in that department.

 Truck Safety Dodge - IIHS

Via: IIHS

The days when assuming that a truck is unsafe just because it is a truck are gone. Many new truck models come with 5-star safety ratings. Not all trucks are equal though, and just because you buy the biggest truck on the market does not make it the safest. If safety is your concern, research should always be done before purchasing a vehicle. Are trucks the safest vehicles on the road? Not as a general rule of thumb, but they have come a long way with the help of technology and people should not just assume that a truck is unsafe based solely on the fact that it is a truck.

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Myth: You Can't Have Luxury In A Truck

 2007 Cadillac Escalade EXT Truck - Mecum

Via: Mecum

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Pickup trucks used to be basic with only the most necessary features to get the job done. It's natural to want some luxury in your vehicles and many believe that a truck can't be luxurious. This could not be further from the truth. Once again, a myth started as a fact but has changed over time, and people have not caught up with the idea that a truck can be luxurious.

 King Ranch Truck Interior - Ford

[View: Ford](#)

One prime example is Cadillac, the name is synonymous with luxury. Cadillac produced trucks that were arguably just as luxurious as their car counterparts. Other car makers have also been adding luxury to their trucks over the years with creature comforts like leather seats, touch-screens on the dash, leather wrapped dashes and steering wheels, and pretty much anything you can find in a luxury car. If you are looking for luxury, don't count out a pickup truck.

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Myth: Leaving Your Tailgate Down Saves Fuel Economy

 Tailgate Down - Chevy

Via: Chevrolet

Everyone has seen someone driving a truck with the tailgate down or even using one of those net-style tailgates. You can thank the myth about saving gas by leaving your tailgate down. This myth is based on the belief that leaving the tailgate closed, in the up position, will create

a wall of air which will create drag. This drag is then believed to make the truck work harder and be less aerodynamic.


 Truck Tailgate - GMC

via: GMC

This myth has been busted many times, yet people still believe it. The science shows that air flows better with the tailgate closed which creates an air vacuum or bubble which pushes the air smoothly over the tailgate. When the tailgate is down, the air is broken up and becomes turbulent, and can push down over the tailgate that is opened, causing drag. Trucks have been engineered for the best aerodynamics they can achieve, including being designed to be driven with the tailgate closed. If you're looking for better gas mileage in your truck, leave that tailgate closed.

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Myth: Trucks Can Tow Anything

 Ford Truck Towing - Ford

Vis: Ford

Can trucks tow anything? That is a pretty broad assumption and a dangerous myth. Each truck, even different models, have specific and different tow ratings. Just because you have a truck it doesn't mean that you can haul a horse trailer or an RV behind it. Trucks have always been portrayed as the go anywhere, tow anything vehicle and it's just not true.

 Chevy Truck Towing - Chevy


Vis: Chevrolet

If you tow something that your truck is not rated for you may end up damaging your drivetrain or even losing control and causing an accident. Generally speaking, smaller trucks cannot tow what larger trucks can. However, each truck is different and you should check what your truck is rated to tow and ensure that the correct equipment is also used when towing. The fact is all trucks can tow something, but not all trucks can tow anything.

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Myth: Ice And Snow Is No Problem A Truck

 GMC Truck In Snow - GMC

Via: GMC

Another scary myth is that driving a pickup truck means that snow and ice is not a problem. People believe that they have a truck and it can handle all types of terrain. You may have seen a truck blow by you on a snowy/icy highway only to end up in a ditch a couple miles down the road.

 Truck Snow Crash - nbcmontana


 Truck Snow Crash - nbcmontana

Don't end up like that person in the ditch. Even if you have 4-wheel drive that doesn't make it automatically safe to drive normal in dangerous conditions. All vehicles, whether 4-wheel or 2-wheel drive should take caution in icy and snowy conditions. Pickup trucks can be extra dangerous due to most of the weight being in the center and front of the vehicle. This can

cause a spinout even with 4-wheel drive engaged. Trucks may be built with the purpose and idea that they can drive over anything, but a sense of caution and sensibility is still needed to stay safe.


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Myth: Pickup Trucks Are Expensive

 GMC Canyon Truck - GMC

Via: GMC

Trucks have been viewed as expensive and out of budget for many folks. They are bigger than a typical car, so logically they would cost more but they don't have to be expensive. Sure, some trucks can cost well over \$50,000 but there are many new trucks that can be bought for the price of a nicely equipped car.

 Nissan Truck - Nissan

Via: Nissan

According to Kelly Blue Books 10 cheapest trucks of 2021, there are a handful of trucks that can be purchased for under \$30,000 including the Chevrolet Colorado and Ford Ranger that both start right around \$25,000. That is just the beginning. Ford has a new truck for 2022, the Maverick, that starts at \$19,995 and it's even a hybrid so you will save on fuel efficiency as well. Just because you heard trucks are expensive, and some are, do a little research and you can find plenty of trucks that might fit in your budget for a new vehicle.

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Myth: Bigger Is Better

 Lifted 2017 Ford F250 - Mecum

Via: Mecum

Bigger is better is something you hear a lot in the truck world. Everyone wants to go big and build a huge giant truck that's lifted and has oversized wheels and tires. Sure, they look cool

and turn a lot of heads. Maybe it's something you've dreamt about since you were a kid, and that's ok. It just might not be the best for everyone.

 1973 Ford F100 - Mecum

 Via: Mecum

Building or buying a big truck may seem like the thing to do, but consider the downsides to "bigger is better". First of all, fuel efficiency goes out the window. The large wheels and tires and huge lifted suspension throws everything out of whack as far as getting good gas mileage. Then you have the cost of all these parts or they have already been added in the price if you are buying it already altered. Going big is not cheap. Finally, imagine trying to find a parking spot to fit in or even driving into a parking garage. Many large trucks that have been lifted can't get into parking garages due to the clearance. Bigger is not always better but if it is something you want, just consider the downsides first.

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Myth: Trucks Are Just For The Farm And Country

 1949 International Truck - Mecum

 Via: Mecum

Pickup trucks have been used in the country and at farms for decades. They have been a strong workhorse making lives easier by helping out on the farm or delivering products from small town to small town. Everyone should be grateful for that and there is still a place for trucks on the farm and in the country. However, trucks have evolved and become so much more than just a farm truck.

 2020 Toyota Tacoma - Mecum

Via: Wikimedia

Today, you will see trucks in suburban driveways, mall parking lots, race tracks, and even soccer practice. The practicality of trucks makes them useful for everyday life. There is room for the family and the groceries. They can be compact for downtown city living or large enough

help your college roommate move. Whatever the reason for buying a truck, it has come far from being considered just a farm truck or a vehicle just for the country.



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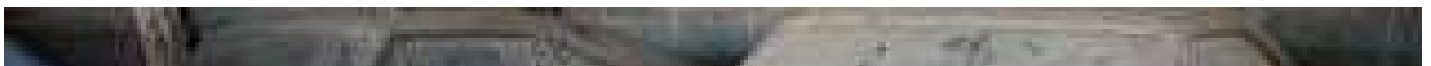
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Vincent has been an automotive enthusiast since being a kid growing up in Europe and Asia. With his time overseas coupled with years spent in the US, he has an appreciation for a variety of automobiles. When not...

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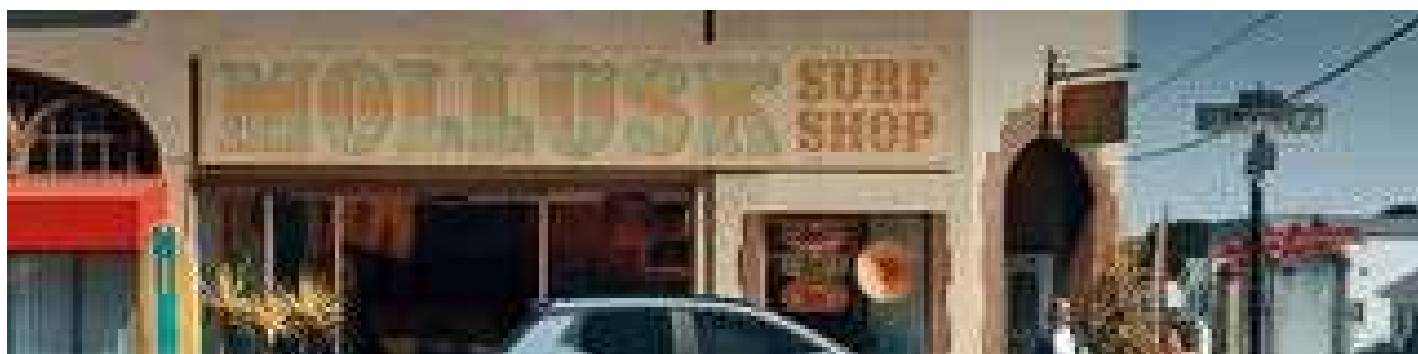
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