

2021 Ford F-150 revealed By Joe Sage

The new 2021 Ford F-150 marks the 14th generation of the top-selling F-Series, starting with the first F-1 pickup in 1948. Though F-250 and F-350 had kicked in earlier, alongside what had become the F-100 in generation two (1953), surprising though it may seem now, the F-150 badge didn't appear until gen six in 1973. Hasn't the F-150 been with us forever? It's easy to seem so.

And by top-selling, we mean top-selling. Not only has F-Series been the best-selling truck for 43 years, with F-150 the most popular in the series, but it has been the best-selling vehicle of any and all types for 38 years running. As the pickup market is becoming ever more competitive, Ford continues to work extra hard to keep that top spot.

Style evolution for 2021 is subtle at a glance, which is a good thing, as to our eye the integration of elements into the new-in-2015 aluminum build had really hit its stride in the most recent refreshes of the outgoing generation. But in fact every body panel is revised, with updated headlamps and "C-clamp" DRL surrounds, new power dome hood, wraparound bumpers, higher front fenders and a slim-waisted contoured midsection.

The truck continues with a fully boxed high-strength steel frame and high-strength, military-

grade aluminum alloy body, while wheels bear larger tires and are set on a notably widened stance.

A new grille is always a quick way to spot a new model, but you'll want to absorb those other form factors, as there are fully 11 different grilles across models for 2021 (three are shown here).

Aerodynamics are best-ever, with new active grille shutters, new automatically deploying active air dam, and new cab and tailgate geometry.

While a full-electric F-150 has been promised in about a year, there are fully six engine choices now (see charts at right), including the only full hybrid powertrain in the segment at this time.

New features are at least as extensive as trim level, grille and engine options, including:

- Pro Power Onboard power source, available in 2.0 kW (or 2.4 kW on the hybrid) or 7.2 kW spec. Whether powering your jobsite or campsite, your need for a generator is a thing of the past (which also frees up bed space).
- Zone Lighting. Ever have to turn your lights on to accomplish a task or find something after dark? With this feature, you can turn any of your various exterior lights on selectively, saving power or just not disturbing the rest of the great outdoors.
- Over-the-Air Updates. Tech features, from en-

tertainment to communications to driver assist, are extensive (including generous voice-activated pinch-to-zoom touchscreens; see right), but best of all, you can now update and upgrade the systems transparently, even while on the go.

- A new Tailgate Work Surface is not only level and flat, but includes built-in rulers, plus cupholder and even pencil and mobile device holders.
- Clamp pockets are also built into the tailgate.
- Near-180-degree Max Recline fold-down seats in the all-new interior allow a quick or long snooze.
- The shift lever knocks down 90 degrees for a maximum Interior Work Surface easily big enough for a 15-inch laptop and document work.
- Available Lockable Rear Under-Seat Storage runs the full width of the cab.
- Towing continues to get plenty of attention, with Pro Trailer Backup Assist, Trailer Reverse Guidance and do-it-by-yourself trailer light check.

The new F-150 will be built at Ford's Dearborn Truck Plant and Kansas City Assembly Plant.

With pandemic quarantines still precluding normal vehicle launch events, actor Denis Leary emceed an online live reveal of the new F-150 at the end of June, just in time for this issue. We look forward to seeing the new trucks in the flesh and of course getting some time behind the wheel—and will report back. ■



2021 FORD F-150 LINEUP

Configs Regular Cab
..... SuperCab
..... SuperCrew

Trim Levels XL
..... XLT
..... Lariat
..... King Ranch
..... Platinum
..... Limited

Drive layouts ...RWD
..... 4x4 w open rear diff
..... 4x4 w electr lock r diff
..... hybrid RWD
..... hybrid 4x4 elec lock r diff

SUSPENSION:
F: indep double-wishbone w coil-over heavy-duty gas shocks, stamped lower control arm; R: leaf spring, solid axle, heavy-duty gas shocks

FUEL CAPACITY:
(all but diesel, hybrid)23, 26, 36 gal
Power Stroke diesel26 gal
PowerBoost hybrid30.6 gal

ENGINES

- All are port fuel inj & direct inj except PS diesel
- All are coil on plug ignition except PS diesel
- All have roller finger follower valvetrain except V6 FFV w direct acting mechanical bucket
- All have electronic engine control system except PS diesel w multicore powertrain control module
- All except PS diesel take 87 oct reg unl fuel; 3.3L V6 FFV and 5.0L V8 also take E85 flex fuel
- Horsepower, torque, fuel economy TBD on all

3.3L Ti-VCT V6 FFV
Naturally-aspirated 60° V6, OHC, alum block/heads, E85 compatible, 12:1 compression

2.7L EcoBoost V6
Twin-turbo & intercooled 60° V6, OHC, compacted graphite iron block, alum heads, 10:1 compr

5.0L Ti-VCT V8
Naturally-aspirated 90° V8, OHC, alum block/heads, E85 compatible, 12:1 compression

3.5L EcoBoost V6
Twin-turbo & intercooled 60° V6, OHC, alum block/heads, 10.5:1 compression

3.0L Power Stroke V6
Turbo & intercooled 60° V6 diesel, compacted graphite iron block, alum heads, 16:1 compr

3.5L PowerBoost Hybrid V6
Twin-turbo & intercooled 60° V6, OHC, alum block/heads, 10.5:1 compression

TECHNOLOGY

- STANDARD:**
- Over-the-air-updates
 - FordPass Connect™ (w remote lock/unlock, vehicle status check, schedule remote start times, Trailer Theft Alert, Trailer Light Check and other truck features)
 - 4" productivity screen in instrument cluster
 - 8" center stack touchscreen
 - Selectable drive modes
 - SYNC® 4, wireless phone connection

- AVAILABLE:**
- 2.0 kW, 2.4 kW, 7.2 kW Pro Power Onboard
 - 12" center touchscreen, voice-activated touchscreen navigation system w pinch-to-zoom capability, 8" productivity screen in instrument cluster, 12" productivity screen
 - 360-degree camera w split-view display
 - Intelligent Access w push-button start
 - 8-speaker Bang & Olufsen audio w HD Radio
 - 18-speaker Unleashed by Bang & Olufsen audio w HD Radio, Sirius XM 360L
 - 4G LTE w wifi hotspot
 - Extended power running boards w kick switch
 - Remote start system, MyKey®, SecuriCode™ keyless entry keypad
 - Rain sensing wipers
 - Fleet telematics (fleet only)

