



NEWS

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CONSUMER REPORTS' SUVs 2005 LISTS BEST, WORST VEHICLES FOR SERIOUS OFF-ROAD DRIVING

Consumer Reports' SUVs, Wagons, Minivans, Trucks 2005
on sale at newsstands now

YONKERS, NY –*Consumer Reports* released lists of best and worst vehicles for off-road driving in its newly-released special publication, *SUVs, Wagons, Minivans, Trucks 2005*. The best and worst lists include some popular vehicles from Detroit's automakers and a handful of those from European and Asian manufacturers, too.

This is the second year in a row that *Consumer Reports* has published this information on off-road vehicles. It's designed to help consumers who are looking to buy vehicles that will be used in serious off-road conditions such as sharp inclines and descents, fording streams, and traversing rock-strewn paths.

Consumer Reports' SUVs, Wagons, Minivans, Trucks 2005 is on newsstands now. The publication is part of the respected *Consumer Reports' Cars* series of special automotive publications.

Here's a look at the lists. All vehicles are listed alphabetically:

Best 4WDs for Off-Road Driving

<i>Chevrolet Avalanche</i>	<i>Nissan Titan</i>
<i>Chevrolet Silverado</i>	<i>Toyota 4Runner</i>
<i>Ford F150</i>	<i>Toyota Land Cruiser</i>
<i>Kia Sorento</i>	<i>Toyota Tundra</i>
<i>Land Rover Freelander</i>	<i>Volkswagen Touareg</i>
<i>Lexus GX470</i>	

Worst 4WDs for Off-Road Driving

<i>Chevrolet TrailBlazer</i>	<i>Ford Explorer Sport Trac</i>
<i>Ford Expedition</i>	<i>GMC Envoy</i>
<i>Ford Explorer</i>	

Consumer Reports uses a battery of 45-plus different tests to rate cars, minivans, SUVs, and pickup trucks at its Auto Test Center in East Haddam, Connecticut. *CR's* team of auto engineers evaluates each vehicle's performance, safety, comfort, convenience, interior quality, fuel economy, cargo capacity, and more.

Vehicles with four-wheel-drive and low-range gearing as well as others that are designed for off-roading are put through two special tests at *CR's* 327-acre facility. To evaluate off-road capability, *CR* runs all those vehicles through an off-road course and up a steep, challenging rock hill. Results from those two off-road tests were used in determining *CR's* lists of best and worst tested vehicles for off-road driving.

Vehicles for Light Off-Road Driving

CR's auto editors also included for the first time in this publication a list of the best vehicles for light off-roading. They are the: *BMW X3*, *Ford Escape*, *Toyota RAV4*, *Toyota Highlander*, and the *Subaru Forester*. That list, too, is based on testing done by *Consumer Reports's* team of auto engineers.

Consumer Reports's SUVs, Wagons, Minivans, Trucks 2005 offers expert reviews of every major model for 2005, along with *CR's* exclusive ratings for performance and safety, reliability histories, test results, owner satisfaction, and more. The publication also includes five feature stories, including one on what's new for 2005, tips on how to pick the best vehicle for your needs, and an in-depth look at the true costs of owning an SUV. Other stories examine what the government's new rollover tests mean to the consumer, and seven keys for getting the best price at a dealership. For those who need to be more budget conscious, there's even a list of *CR's* best vehicles tested for under \$25,000.

Consumer Reports SUVs, Wagons, Minivans, Trucks 2005 (\$5.99 U.S./\$6.99 Canada) is available everywhere magazines are sold. The special publication can also be purchased online at www.ConsumerReports.org/newcars.

Buyers can also visit www.ConsumerReports.org for more information all types of vehicles, from sports cars to pickups. The web site's free area contains extensive information on buying a car, checking a used car, and interactive tools to help you buy or sell a car. Site subscribers pay just \$4.95 per month or \$26 per year (\$19 for *Consumer Reports* subscribers) to access in depth features, including ratings, recommendations, and advice on hundreds of cars and trucks.

Consumer Reports's Auto Price Services provides all the pricing information and advice a consumer needs to get the best deal on virtually any vehicle. Call the service toll free at 1-800-395-4400 or order online at www.ConsumerReports.org.

Consumer Reports is one of the most trusted sources for information and advice on consumer products and services. *CR* has the most comprehensive auto-test program of any American magazine; *CR's* auto experts have decades of experience in driving, testing, and reporting on cars.