

2014 Ram 1500 'Rose to the Top,' Taking Motor Trend's 'Truck of the Year' Honors

Motor Trend has selected the Ram 1500 as its 2014 Truck of the Year.

The announcement was made last week at the Chrysler Warren Truck Assembly Plant, the birthplace of Ram Trucks.

A full report on Motor Trend's comprehensive Truck of the Year testing will be featured on MotorTrend.com and in the February 2014 issue of Motor Trend.

Nine Truck of the Year contenders were put through an extensive battery of testing designed to evaluate virtually every aspect of each vehicle, said Chrysler spokesman Nick Cappa. To determine which truck deserved top honors, the Motor Trend judges took the nine contenders to the Continental Tire Automotive Proving Grounds in Uvalde, Texas. There, the judges tested each truck's performance with the following exercises:

- Standard testing (without load) - 0-60 mph and 1/4-mile acceleration, 60-0 mph braking, and maximum lateral grip;
- Limit handling (without load) - Closed-course cornering, braking and acceleration;
- Tow/payload testing - 0-60 acceleration repeated with trailers attached (pickups) or payload secured (vans), loaded to 75 percent of each truck's maximum rating (as equipped);
- Road looping - Highway and real-world replication.

new EcoDiesel V6 engine as well as its eight-speed TorqueFlite transmission, a combination that boasts a towing capacity of up to 9,200 pounds.

Further, Motor Trend's Real MPG testing supported what the team learned in Uvalde: None of the gas-powered half-ton trucks in this year's competition - be they V6 or V8, 4x2 or 4x4 - could match the EcoDiesel's mileage.

"For 2014, we had a large and highly competitive field of contenders for Motor Trend's Truck of the Year," said Edward Loh, editor-in-chief of Motor Trend.

"At the end of the day, though, the Ram 1500 quickly rose to the top. Not only did it withstand our rigorous testing, it thoroughly impressed our judges with its vast array of standard and optional equipment, and, most notable, its fuel-efficient, segment-exclusive EcoDiesel V6.

"With 420 lb.-ft. of torque and up to 28 'Real MPG' highway, the EcoDiesel is a true game-changer. In fact, it helped make Ram 1500 the Motor Trend 2014 Truck of the Year - and the only consecutive winner in the history of the award."

Reid Bigland, president and CEO - Ram Truck Brand, said, "Half-ton truck customers have been asking for a diesel engine and Ram is the only truck manufacturer to answer the bell and deliver not only best-in-class fuel economy but also 9,200 pounds of towing capability.

"In a brutally competitive truck industry, the Ram 1500 is the only vehicle to ever win the Motor Trend Truck of the Year award two years in a row, reaffirming the fact that we have the best truck on the road."

Cappa said developing the 2014 Ram 1500 wasn't easy.

"Our situation was unique," Cappa said. "We had won a lot of awards for the engineering in 2013 with our Ram 1500, so we asked ourselves what could we do to top ourselves in 2014. The answer was to put a small 3-liter diesel engine under the hood."

That enabled the 1500 to deliver 420-lb.-ft. of torque while also providing great mileage.

"That power output is more than some large V8s," Cappa said. "If you want a combination of torque and fuel economy, the Ram 1500 with EcoDiesel is the truck for you."

The truck market is very competitive, Cappa said. Detroit's manufacturers have worked

hard to stay on top, he said, and in order to stand out, Ram has given customers what they want.

"They are specific about what they want," Cappa said. "And having unique features like our air suspension and our bedside storage 'Ramboxes' helps. But the number one unmet demand for heavy trucks is fuel economy. And Ram now has the top two trucks in terms of mileage with the EcoDiesel Ram 1500 and our V6 Pentastar gas engine truck."

"... only consecutive winner in the history of the award..."

- Edward Loh, Motor Trend

Once testing was completed, the judges determined which truck would be crowned Truck of the Year, Cappa said. The winner is not chosen from a direct comparison against the other contenders, but rather as a result of how each contender measured up against the award's six criteria: Design Advancement, Engineering Excellence, Efficiency, Safety, Value, and Performance of Intended Function.

Cappa said the judges were particularly impressed with the performance of the Ram 1500's

Ford to Recall 2013 Escapes in January

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) - Ford is recalling the Escape small SUV again, this time to fix oil and fuel leaks that could cause engine fires.

The hot-selling SUV has been recalled seven times since it was redesigned and went on sale in the spring of 2012.

The first of two recalls announced last week affects more than 161,000 Escapes worldwide from the 2013 model year with 1.6-liter four-cylinder engines.

Ford says the cylinder heads can overheat and crack, causing oil leaks.

Of those SUVs, fuel lines on about 12,000 may have been installed incorrectly. They could become chafed and leak gas. Many were repaired under a previous recall.

Ford says the oil leaks caused 13 fires but no injuries. There haven't been any fires from the fuel line problems.

In documents filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Ford said it began to get engine fire reports on Escapes in late August, and began

investigating. Eventually, it was able to duplicate the cylinder head cracking and decided to do a recall. During the investigation, Ford also found warranty claims of fuel line leaks and decided to repair them as well.

In some cases, the fuel lines may have been installed incorrectly by technicians in a previous fuel line recall, the documents said.

Auto safety advocates say the high number of recalls is out of the ordinary for a new model and a sign of quality problems.

But Ford spokeswoman Kelli Felker disagreed. "We're committed to providing our customers with top-quality vehicles and are equally committed to addressing potential issues and responding quickly for our customers," she said.

The redesigned Escape has been recalled seven times since July of 2012 to fix carpet padding that can interfere with the brake pedals, fuel lines that can crack, coolant leaks, and child safety locks.

Dealers will fix cooling and control systems or inspect and replace fuel lines for free. The recalls start in January.

FIRST CHOICE

MUFFLER & BRAKE SERVICE
23252 VAN DYKE
3 Blocks North of 9 Mile
HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5pm; Sat.-Closed

WARREN • 586-757-7203

DELUXE OIL CHANGE SPECIAL
Up To 5 Qts. Of Oil Lube & Filter
No Disposal Fee

\$23³⁶


Includes topping off fluids
12-31-13

MUFFLER, EXTENSION PIPE & TAIL PIPE

Most FWD Cars **10% Off**
In-store offer ends 12-31-13

BRAKE SPECIAL

\$199⁹⁵

• Front Metallic Disc Brake Pads
• 2 New Front Rotors
• Labor Included
Most F.W.D. U.S. Cars • In-store offer ends 12-31-13

Check Our Price on Tune Ups, Water Pumps, Heater Cores & Other Repairs

MAKE US YOUR FIRST CHOICE

Michigan's Glass Experts

Henderson GLASS

RE-OPENS IN WARREN

UP TO \$50.00 OFF WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT (WITH INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE)



COME SEE OUR NEW SHOWROOM

CUSTOM SHOWER DOORS & ENCLOSURES

10% OFF*

*MATERIAL ONLY, LABOR EXCLUDED. Not valid with other offers, some restrictions apply.

FOGGY HOME WINDOWS? BUY ONE DOUBLE PANE GLASS ... GET ONE -

50% OFF*

*MATERIAL ONLY, LABOR EXCLUDED. Not valid with other offers, some restrictions apply.

STONE CHIP REPAIR

\$29.95

RETAIL IN SHOP. Not valid with other offers, some restrictions apply.

FREE MOBILE SERVICE AVAILABLE

800-ASK-GLASS

275-4527

22 Convenient Locations

www.HendersonGlass.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAY

from

buff whelan chevrolet

586-274-0396

OVER 1,000

New Chevrolets in Stock!

WE GUARANTEE THE LOWEST PRICES OR IT'S FREE

2014 EQUINOX LS

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED



Stk.#41359

Power Locks/Windows/Mirrors • Cruise Tilt • Aluminum Wheels • OnStar XM Radio & More...

36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$218*

+ Tax with \$0 Down

No Security Deposit Required

2014 CRUZE 1LT

NO FIRST PAYMENT OR SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED



Stk.#42128

1.4L Turbo • Aluminum Wheels Power Locks/Windows/Mirrors • Cruise • Tilt OnStar • XM Radio & More...

36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$165*

+ Tax with \$0 Down

No Security Deposit Required

2014 IMPALA LS

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIRED



Stk.#41812

Power Locks/Windows/Mirrors Cruise • Tilt • Power Driver Seat & More...

36 Month Lease/10,000 Miles

\$254*

+ Tax with \$0 Down

No Security Deposit Required

*See dealer for details. All Rebates/Incentives have been deducted from sale price/payment and are subject to change by manufacturer without notice. GM employee discount required except where noted. Lease Loyalty is included on all lease payments. All leases are 10,000 miles per year + 1st payment, tax, title and plate fee due at signing unless otherwise noted. Offers expire 12-31-13.

buff whelan chevrolet

WHERE THE DEALS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE, EVERY DAY SINCE 1970!

Van Dyke • South of 18 Mile • Sterling Heights

Jeff Caul

586-274-0396

PEP QUOTES BY PHONE OR EMAIL: JEFF CAUL AT JCAUL@BUFFWHELAN.COM

FIND NEW ROADS



CONVENIENT HOURS:

Mon. & Thurs. 8:30 am - 9 pm
Tues., Wed., Fri. 8:30 am - 6:30 pm

