

## Sentra Offers Solid Value

### Nissan Compact Still Has Room to Grow After 2024 Update

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The 2024 Nissan Sentra may not set the compact car world on fire, but it delivers solid overall value for budget-conscious buyers.

Nissan has given the Sentra a fresh new look for the new model year, with a sportier grille, updated headlights and new wheel designs. However, as I found during my recent test drive, the Sentra's performance still lags behind many of its small car competitors.

One of the Sentra's biggest strengths is the impressive list of standard features it packs, even on the base model. All trim levels come equipped with Nissan Safety Shield 360, which includes six advanced driver-assist technologies such as automatic emergency braking and blind spot monitoring.

This comprehensive suite of safety tech is a rarity in the compact segment, where these features are often part of pricey option packages.

The SR trim I tested took the tech even further, adding an 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system, Intelligent Cruise Control, and an available Bose premium audio upgrade. While not the most exciting to drive, the Sentra certainly doesn't skimp when it comes to features and creature comforts.



The 2024 Nissan Sentra features updated exterior styling, including a reshaped front fascia, new headlight design and available 18-inch alloy wheels on sporty SR models.

Where the Sentra falls short is in the driving dynamics department. Nissan has updated the car's 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine and continuously variable transmission (CVT) for 2024, but the powertrain still feels underwhelming. With just 149 horsepower on tap, acceleration is adequate at best, and the CVT saps most of the fun out of the driving experience with its rubber band-like feel.

In my opinion, Nissan would've been better off offering a traditional automatic or even a manual gearbox option, which could

have injected some much-needed driving excitement into the Sentra.

As it stands, the continuously variable transmission remains a letdown, especially for enthusiasts or anyone looking for an engaging small car.

However, the Sentra's sensible, practical side shines through in other areas. The interior is well-appointed, with supportive front seats and ample storage space. Nissan's Zero Gravity seats provide excellent comfort, and the available leather upholstery and satin chrome accents lend a premium

feel. In terms of pure livability, the Sentra more than holds its own.

Additionally, the Sentra's exterior has been nicely updated for 2024, with a sportier front fascia, restyled headlights and new wheel designs.

The Sentra SR model I drove stood out with its 18-inch alloys, dark chrome trim, and bold two-tone paint options. While the styling won't turn heads, it's a marked improvement over the previous generation.

Ultimately, the 2024 Nissan Sentra is a solid, if unexciting, compact car. It

delivers excellent value, a wealth of tech and safety features, and a comfortable, practical interior. But the bland driving dynamics and disappointing CVT hold it back from being a truly compelling option in this increasingly competitive segment.

For buyers who prioritize practicality and safety over driving excitement, the Sentra is certainly worth a look.

Pricing starts at \$21,180 for the S trim and tops out at \$24,270 for the well-equipped SR, including the delivery fee.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### What was tested?

2024 Nissan Sentra SR (\$23,620). Options: SR Premium Package (\$2,490), premium two-tone paint (\$645), floor mats (\$270). Price as tested (including \$1,095 destination charge): \$28,220

##### By The Numbers

Wheelbase: 106.6 in.  
Length: 182.9 in.  
Width: 71.5 in.  
Height: 56.9 in.  
Engine: 2.0-liter four cylinder (149 hp, 146 lbs.-ft.)  
Transmission: Continuously variable  
Fuel economy: 18 city, 23 highway

##### RATINGS

Style: 8  
Performance: 4  
Price: 9  
Handling: 5  
Ride: 6  
Comfort: 7  
Quality: 8  
Overall: 7

**Why buy it?** It delivers excellent value, a wealth of standard safety tech and a comfortable, refined interior.

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#### A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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