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Modern Take On A Legend

Toyota's All-New Tacoma Evolves While Keeping Its Core Appeal

By Derek Price

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The Toyota Tacoma has long been the benchmark in midsize trucks, but even legends need updating.

Toyota's popular pickup arrives for a new generation completely redesigned with an emphasis on technology and capability, though some might find its increased dimensions push the boundaries of "midsize."

Based on the same TNGA-F platform as the full-size Tundra, the new Tacoma feels decidedly more substantial than its predecessor. The TRD Off-Road model I tested, priced at \$54,829 with options, showcased this beefier character with its elevated stance and muscular bodywork.

While the growth spurt might disappoint fans of truly compact pickups, it translates to a more planted, confident presence both on road and off.

Power comes from a new turbocharged 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine producing 278 horsepower and 317 pound-feet of torque. While the engine provides adequate thrust for most situations, it can sound coarse under hard acceleration.

The eight-speed automatic transmission handles shifting duties smoothly, though fuel economy ratings of 19 mpg city and 23 highway lag behind some com-



The redesigned 2024 Tacoma TRD Off-Road projects a more muscular presence with its elevated stance and bold front-end styling.

petitors.

Where the Tacoma truly shines is in its off-road capabilities, as showcased in my tester's TRD Off-Road trim.

The optional stabilizer bar disconnect mechanism enhances wheel articulation on tough trails, while the multi-terrain select system adjusts vehicle parameters for different surfaces. The truck's increased size actually helps here, providing bet-

ter stability over rough terrain.

Inside, Toyota has dramatically modernized the cabin with an available 14-inch touchscreen that's both responsive and intuitive.

Material quality feels appropriate for the price point, though the back seat remains somewhat cramped compared to rivals like the Chevrolet Colorado.

The Premium package

adds welcome luxuries including heated and ventilated leather seats and a JBL audio system.

Toyota's reputation for reliability and strong resale value remains a compelling selling point, even as the Tacoma pushes into premium territory with fully-loaded models topping out near \$65,000.

The broad range of available configurations — from

basic work truck to off-road warrior — means there's likely a Tacoma for every need and budget.

Overall, Toyota has successfully modernized its midsize truck while maintaining the capability and durability that made the nameplate famous. The new Tacoma delivers a compelling blend of technology, refinement and off-road prowess.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Toyota Tacoma TRD Off-Road (\$42,900). Options: Premium package (\$8,800), stabilizer disconnect mechanism (\$1,230), bed mat \$200, ball mount (\$70), mini tie down (\$45), tailgate insert (\$89). Price as tested (including \$1,495 destination charge): \$54,829

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 131.9 in.
Length: 213 in.
Width: 77.9 in.
Height: 74.6 in.
Engine: 2.4-liter turbo four cylinder (278 hp, 317 lbs. ft.)
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
MPG: 19 city, 23 highway

RATINGS

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

WHY BUY IT?

Class-leading off-road capability paired with Toyota's reputation for reliability makes the Tacoma a solid choice for adventure-minded buyers who want a truck they can depend on.

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A new 14-inch touchscreen dominates the modernized cabin, though rear seat space remains tight for the segment.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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