



Everything on WHEELS

Sharing the Road

Semi-trucks and trailers play a crucial role in keeping our economy strong.

If you've spent any time on highways and interstates, you've seen them: Huge trucks with 53-foot trailers, air brakes and powerful engines transporting heavy loads. Without these semi-trucks, trailers and their drivers, a lot of business activity would grind to a halt. You might even struggle to get enough to eat.

A LOOK BACK

The journey for semis began in 1896 when automobile manufacturer Alexander Winton began looking for a more efficient method of transporting vehicles to customers. He created a long trailer capable of being towed by a larger truck, initially allowing for the transport of only one vehicle at a time. Over the years, manufacturers adapted his design, ultimately forming the now-common 10- or 18-wheel configuration. This arrangement increases stability and helps with maneuvering. These days, semi-trucks can carry more than 700,000 pounds of goods within their trailers.

COURTEOUS DRIVING

According to the United States Department of Transportation, nearly 75 percent of truck accidents are attributed to the drivers of smaller

vehicles, rather than truck operators. That's why it's so important to stay aware of semi-trucks in traffic around you. They require more space for maneuvering, stopping, and turning compared to passenger vehicles.

Have you encountered the warning decal that states, "If you can't see my mirrors, I can't see you"? Drivers of large trucks often find it difficult to

see areas behind them because of the obstruction created by their own trailers. To address this, they rely on extended side mirrors, which provide a clearer view of the surrounding area.

Respect the space surrounding these vital vehicles, and you'll help reduce the frequency of these truck-related accidents. When you see a truck signaling for a lane

change, safely move out of its path at your earliest convenience.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Manufacturers are prioritizing the safety of both their drivers and other road users. Leading big-rig manufacturers have been introducing notable tech-enabled safety features in their latest models. These

trucks are equipped with radar and camera systems that feature active brake assistance, lane departure warnings and adaptive cruise control. While this technology continues to evolve, the development of self-driving trucks has also significantly advanced: Semi-trucks are now successfully completing trips of hundreds of miles without human intervention.



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Cycle Your Way to Success

Biking has become widely embraced both for recreation and as a mode of transportation.

Several compelling factors are driving the popularity surge among cyclists. Biking offers numerous benefits for both physical and mental well-being. Beyond its overall impact on our health, it's also a convenient, sustainable and cost-effective means to navigate our surroundings.

PHYSICAL BENEFITS

Regularly cycling can significantly bolster cardiovascular well-being, diminish the likelihood of chronic diseases and strengthen muscle groups. As a low-impact activity, cycling is particularly enjoyable for those experiencing joint discomfort or mobility limitations. Additionally, this serves as an effective form of aerobic exercise. With each calorie burned, you're getting closer to your health goals.

A variety of studies show that cycling can reduce the risk of serious health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Experts say that individuals who commute by bike exhibit a 46 percent lower risk of developing heart disease and a 45 percent lower risk of cancer. Cycling is great for respiratory health, a growing issue among the American people.

MENTAL BENEFITS

Beyond its physical benefits, biking can improve your mental health. Regular physical activity, including cycling, has been associated with a decrease in symptoms related to depression and anxiety. Biking outdoors does more than provide physical exercise. It's an opportunity to practice stress-relieving mindfulness, while appreciating the natural environment.

HITTING THE ROAD

Biking is perhaps our most environmentally friendly mode of transportation. You'll be playing a role in mitigating air pollution and traffic congestion. Biking to work or school leads to savings on fuel and parking costs, and can offer a quicker commute since you are bypassing rush-hour traffic delays. Numerous cities have embraced bike-sharing

programs and the establishment of dedicated bike lanes, offering new accessibility and safety to cyclists. Beyond commuting, biking serves as an enjoyable and health-conscious alternative for running errands or discovering new parts of town.

RECREATIONAL OPTIONS

There is lots of outdoorsy fun to be had on a bike, whether

leisurely riding through picturesque parks or striking out for mountain biking on challenging trails. Biking can be enjoyed individually or as a group activity, so look for local clubs and organizations dedicated to fostering a cycling community. Taking part in biking events like charity rides or competitive races offers a sense of community and achievement.



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Get Going on a Go-Kart

This fun and exciting form of transportation isn't just for kids anymore.

At one time, go-karting was primarily enjoyed by millions of children, but now adventurous adults can get in on the action, too. Families nationwide have come together to create lasting memories through shared experiences and custom modifications on these dynamic vehicles. Younger drivers are given an invaluable opportunity to develop personal responsibility and learn the intricacies of car-ing for a motorized machine. Older drivers get to design the go-karts of their dreams, while reliving the adventures of youth.

A LOOK BACK

The formal organization of go-karting dates back to the 1950s, when manufacturers began producing affordable motorized karts aimed at pre-teens. The designs were inspired by the open-wheeled race cars of previous decades. Later, they came equipped with more powerful engines, prompting friendly racing competitions. Some initial races took place on standard paved tracks, but the pastime eventually settled onto specially designed raceways tailored for these unique vehicles. Soon a string of professional racing drivers, including Jeff Gordon, Michael Andretti and Al Unser Jr., were crediting early go-kart



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experiences as their career inspiration.

DRIVING TIPS

Whether you are using go-karts for leisure or competition, pay close attention to speed and performance. You'll improve your driving skills — and more likely outpace your peers — by carefully timing

your turns. Reduce your speed just before turning and accelerate smoothly as you exit the bend. Make wider turns at corners to safely maximize your racing speed.

Always maintain a steady grip on the steering wheel, since go-karts often have more sensitive steering responses than cars and trucks. Always

keep your eyes laser-focused on the track ahead.

SAFETY FIRST

Go-karts are generally low maintenance, but they need some regular care. Before opening yours, check gas levels and look for leaks, confirm that the brakes are functional, and make sure the tires are inflated

to the recommended PSI. Next, you'll probably be tempted to show off a little among friends, but make safety the top priority. It's important to talk to young drivers about respectful driving — both for their safety and the safety of others. Equip drivers and passengers with appropriate safety gear, including seatbelts and helmets.

Upgrade to a Dually

There are heavy-duty pickup trucks — then there's this impressive workhorse.

Dually trucks stand apart among their smaller counterparts. Its four-wheel configuration on the rear axle significantly improves hauling capacity, towing and even braking performance because of the increased surface contact with the road. The design also features a wider stance that contributes to improved stability.

If you are considering a new truck, however, it's important to understand that dually models are specifically engineered for work-related tasks. That may limit their practicality as everyday vehicles. They're more costly than standard four-wheel options, and dually trucks typically have lower fuel efficiency. They may provide less comfort on the road unless a heavy load is being towed.

In the market? Anyone thinking of switching to a dually for business or recreational needs should carefully evaluate the advantages and disadvantages before making a purchase decision.

DUALLY PROS

This is the ideal truck for most people's hauling and towing needs. A dually setup promotes better load distribution, which leads to a more stable ride and more even wear pattern on the tires. This

configuration is also effective at minimizing sway with your trailer. That's why so many boaters, campers, ranchers and fishers opt for these trucks. The risks of a tire blowout can be high when pulling a big load on highways. But if one dually tire fails, the remaining tires provide vital support to help

maintain control of the vehicle until it's safely brought to a stop.

DUALLY CONS

Many drivers may be considering a dually for recreational use, like pulling a boat or a third-wheel camper. But it's important to consider things like potential drivability

issues, higher maintenance costs and this truck's lower fuel efficiency before you buy. Conduct a comprehensive test drive at the dealership and pay close attention to handling, particularly in tight turns and parking situations. These maneuvers can be much more challenging compared to driving a standard

truck. You'll also need to budget for higher maintenance and repair expenses. When a replacement is necessary, it's generally recommended that all six tires be switched out. That represents a big financial commitment. Even tire rotations involve all wheels, resulting in increased labor costs.



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Wheelchairs Go Hi-Tech

Adding cool new features means they are not simply a means of mobility these days.

The wheelchair has long served as an essential tool for those with mobility issues because of disabilities or injuries. The earliest recorded wheelchair was created in 1595 for King Philip II of Spain. Thanks to advancements in medical technology, these mobility aids have significantly evolved.

Today, users can opt for fully automatic models that are suitable for terrains far removed from hallways and sidewalks. Many contemporary wheelchairs offer customizable options, including specialized seats and backs. Whether you're looking for something for everyday use or a more specialized model for sports or off-road activities, modern wheelchairs cater to a wide array of needs.



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BIG ADVANCEMENTS

Many of the latest wheelchairs have been specifically engineered to expand travel capabilities, and that's led to huge advances in user independence.

Stability wheels allow for smooth navigation down slopes or even staircases, while ensuring the safety of the occupant. Certain models come equipped with elevation settings.

This helps with reaching for items and allows for eye-level interactions with others who are standing.

CHAIRS FOR ATHLETES

The advent of wheelchair sports has presented remarkable new opportunities to promote athleticism and camaraderie.

Basketball, racing and tennis have become popular,

offering excellent physical workouts in an engaging, competitive atmosphere. Just be sure to select a wheelchair that can support the demands of your chosen activity.

Most performance-oriented models are constructed with advanced technology, are lightweight and designed with optimal ergonomics in mind. Athletes now have the option to customize their chair with

more durable tires for enhanced performance.

POWERING UP

For those facing challenges such as arthritis or muscular disorders, using a traditional manual wheelchair may become unmanageable or exhausting. The latest all-electric models can serve as a transformative solution.

When buying a power

wheelchair, consider the initial costs and the ongoing maintenance required to ensure peak performance. Set aside money for unforeseen repairs, which may involve components such as batteries, wiring and control panels. Talk with your local wheelchair manufacturer or distributor to get more information on pricing, custom options and warranties.

Considering an RV?

More people are choosing these vehicles for leisure — and for life.

Recreational vehicles have seen a significant rise in popularity recently as people choose them for leisure activities but also as a full-time lifestyle. They offer flexibility, freedom, convenience and the opportunity to join a friendly, nationwide community.

FREEDOM TO ROAM

A primary advantage with RVs is the flexibility they provide. You can travel to far-flung destinations at your convenience, free from rigid transportation schedules or predetermined itineraries. Instead, you move from place to place at a leisurely pace, adapting your plans when and where you see fit.

COMFORTS OF HOME

Recreational vehicles offer many of the comforts found in a traditional home, even while you're on the move. Most models come equipped with essential amenities like a kitchen, sleeping quarters, bathroom and even entertainment systems. That makes an RV one of the most ideal choices for long trips.

COST-EFFECTIVE CHOICE

Traveling by RV is a financially savvy alternative for those seeking to explore the country. While the initial investment in an RV may be considerable, you'll enjoy lots of savings over time — particularly if you are a frequent or extended traveler.

When road-tripping in an RV, you're minimizing expenses related to lodging and dining — and the gas to get you there is likely less than the cost of



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a plane ticket.

COMMUNITY BONDS

Vacationing in an RV fosters connections with a community of fellow travelers. The atmosphere at RV parks and campgrounds is often inviting and very social. That can be very appealing to those who are hoping for the opportunity to meet new people and make new friendships on the road.

GET OUT THERE!

An RV offers a unique opportunity to experience the world in a way that conventional travel simply cannot match. Recreational vehicles are perfect for going camping, fishing and hiking, not to mention exploring national parks and a host of other outdoorsy destinations. It's an immersive experience, and that can strengthen your connection to nature and the

environment around us.

TIME FOR FAMILY

RV travel is also an excellent means for family bonding. By sharing adventures together in an RV, everyone can create lasting memories out on the road. You'll have a chance to disconnect from the daily stresses of life while making meaningful new connections with loved ones.

Arriving in Style

Got a special event on tap? Limousines are the perfect way to travel.

Limousines have long been a favored mode of transportation for special celebrations, romantic outings and executive travel. There are tens of thousands of these luxurious elongated vehicles out on the road, offering a variety of special options.

GROWING INDUSTRY

According to market estimates, there are some 164,000 limousine businesses in the U.S., with growth at about 3 percent year over year. Recent statistics show that the domestic limo market generates some \$50 billion dollars annually.

HOW THEY'RE BUILT

These specialty automobiles are created through a meticulous process that starts with the acquisition of a luxury vehicle from a high-end manufacturer. Customization follows, during which the extended bodies are hand-crafted using steel, aluminum and fiberglass material. While the aesthetic enhancements may be the most visible, they actually aren't the most critical. Because of their length, limousines require longer fuel and brake lines to guarantee safe operation. They must be equipped with extended tailpipes to ensure engine emissions safely exit the vehicle.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

If you're headed to an event that calls for the elegance of a limousine, do your homework before choosing a company. First, check their references. Online ratings and customer feedback will provide valuable insights into how the company treats its riders, helping you to make a more informed choice. Look for companies with a

lengthy history in the limousine industry, since that kind of expertise typically translates into a safer, more seamless experience.

Request proof of insurance. A company operating a fleet must be fully insured. When verifying this, make sure the provider holds coverage that exceeds a standard personal auto policy. This standard

policy typically only covers the company vehicles and may not extend to clients. Verify their inspection status. Limousines are classified as commercial vehicles and must comply with stringent safety regulations established by federal and state authorities. Request documentation verifying that its fleet meets all local safety standards.

DRIVERS ARE KEY

Finally, ask about the training and licensing of the limo company's drivers. Chauffeurs must have unique skills to operate these specific automobiles. They should be graduates of an accredited driver training program. Ask about the possibility of selecting your own personal chauffeur based on experience and qualifications.



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