

Rugged Refinement

Forester Evolves with Added Tech, Retains Its Adventurous Spirit

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The all-new 2025 Subaru Forester is a thoroughly evolved version of the brand's popular compact SUV, blending increased refinement with the rugged capability that has long been a Forester hallmark.

After a week behind the wheel of the Premium trim, it's clear that Subaru has successfully updated the Forester formula while staying true to its roots.

At the heart of the new Forester is a familiar 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine, producing 180 horsepower and 178 lb-ft of torque. While not particularly thrilling in terms of acceleration, this powerplant provides adequate performance for daily driving and light off-road excursions.

The continuously variable transmission (CVT) has been improved for smoother and quieter operation, though engine noise remains more noticeable than in some competitors.

Where the Forester truly shines is in its solid, confidence-inspiring demeanor.

The 10-percent-stiffer chassis contributes to improved handling and a more composed ride, striking a nice balance between comfort and capability.

With 8.7 inches of ground clearance and standard all-wheel drive, the Forester feels more truck-like than many crossovers in its class,



The 2025 Forester's redesigned exterior maintains Subaru's rugged aesthetic while incorporating modern, sleek elements.

without the associated penalties in fuel economy or maneuverability.

Inside, Subaru has made significant strides in both design and functionality. The cabin feels more upscale than its predecessor, with improved materials and a more modern aesthetic.

The optional 11.6-inch touchscreen infotainment system is a welcome addition, offering crisp graphics and intuitive operation.

Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are available, enhancing connectivity options for users.

Practicality remains a Forester strong suit. The spacious interior offers ample room for passengers and cargo alike, with thoughtful touches like heavy-duty utility hooks in the cargo area expanding versatility.

The large greenhouse and strategically designed pillars provide excellent visibility, a Subaru trademark that aids in both daily driving and off-road scenarios.

Safety features are comprehensive, with Subaru's EyeSight driver assist technology now standard across all trim levels. The system's

expanded capabilities, including the ability to detect cyclists and pedestrians at intersections, add to the Forester's appeal as a family vehicle.

At \$34,590 as tested, our Premium trim Forester represents strong value in the compact SUV segment. Standard all-wheel drive, a robust suite of safety features and genuine off-road capability set it apart from many competitors at this price point.

However, the Forester isn't without its compromises. The engine, while adequate,

lacks the punch of some turbocharged rivals and can be noisy under hard acceleration. Additionally, while the interior is much improved, some may find it less luxurious than top-trim versions of competing models.

Overall, it prioritizes practicality, capability and safety over outright performance or luxury pretensions.

For buyers seeking a reliable, versatile compact SUV that's as comfortable on a dirt trail as it is in a grocery store parking lot, the new Forester makes a compelling case.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Subaru Forester Premium (\$31,995). Options: Optional package (\$1,200). Price as tested (including \$1,395 destination charge): \$34,590

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 105.1 in.
Length: 183.3 in.
Width: 72 in.
Height: 68.1 in.
Engine: 2.5-liter four cylinder (180 hp, 178 ft. lbs.)
Transmission: Continuously variable
MPG: 26 city, 33 highway

RATINGS

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

WHY BUY IT?

The new Forester offers a winning combination of practicality, capability and value, making it an excellent choice for buyers seeking a versatile compact SUV that's equally at home in urban environments and off-road adventures.

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A spacious, well-designed cabin with available 11.6-inch touchscreen highlights the Forester's blend of practicality and modern technology.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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