

Appraiser Blog

The Top 10 Longest-Lasting Cars You Can Buy Today



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When you're shelling out big bucks for a new car, you want it to last. Let's face it: no one enjoys the idea of forking over thousands of dollars for a vehicle that's going to start showing signs of wear after just a few years. Fortunately, today's cars are more reliable and durable than ever before, but a select few models stand out as true longevity champions. If you're after a vehicle that can potentially hit the 250,000-mile mark without breaking a sweat, you're in the right place.

A comprehensive study by iSeeCars examined over 402 million vehicles to determine which ones are most likely to keep on trucking for the long haul. The results? A top 10 list dominated by one automaker that probably won't surprise you: Toyota. But there's more to the story than just the brand name. Let's dive into what makes these cars tick, why they're built to last, and what you need to know before making your next big purchase.



1. Toyota Tundra: 36.6% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Toyota Tundra is a full-sized pickup that's known for its rugged reliability. Built with durability in mind, the Tundra features a powerful engine, a tough

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chassis, and minimal use of complex electronics that can sometimes lead to expensive repairs. Toyota's meticulous attention to detail in manufacturing and quality control ensures that every Tundra rolling off the line is built to last.

Key Features:

- A 5.7-liter V8 engine with 381 horsepower.
- Heavy-duty suspension and brakes designed for long-term durability.
- A reputation for reliability that's practically unmatched in the pickup world.

2. Toyota Sequoia: 36.4% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: Sharing many components with the Tundra, the Sequoia is essentially a full-sized SUV version of its pickup sibling. It's designed to handle tough conditions, whether that's hauling a boat to the lake or enduring the daily grind of family life. The Sequoia's longevity can be attributed to its sturdy frame, reliable V8 engine, and a build quality that Toyota is famous for.

Key Features:

- Spacious interior with seating for up to eight passengers.
- A 5.7-liter V8 engine similar to the Tundra's.
- Robust off-road capability.

3. Toyota 4Runner: 26.8% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Toyota 4Runner is a rugged, no-nonsense SUV that's built for adventure. With its traditional body-on-frame construction, the 4Runner is designed to handle the kind of rough terrain that would sideline most modern crossovers.

Its enduring appeal lies in its simplicity—fewer high-tech gadgets mean fewer things that can go wrong. This old-school approach to SUV building, combined with Toyota's

renowned engineering, results in a vehicle that's as tough as nails and ready for the long haul, whether on city streets or off the beaten path.

Key Features:

- A 4.0-liter V6 engine known for its reliability.
- Exceptional off-road capability with available four-wheel drive.
- A strong resale value, reflecting its long-term reliability.

4. Toyota Tacoma: 26.7% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Toyota Tacoma is a midsize pickup with a legendary reputation for toughness. It's a favorite among adventurers and tradespeople alike, known for its ability to handle both rough off-road trails and heavy-duty work tasks. The Tacoma's longevity comes from its proven engine choices, strong construction, and Toyota's consistent focus on quality.

Key Features:

- A choice between a 2.7-liter four-cylinder or a 3.5-liter V6 engine.
- Excellent off-road capabilities, especially in TRD Pro trim.
- High safety ratings and a suite of advanced safety features.

5. Toyota Highlander Hybrid: 25.9% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Toyota Highlander Hybrid is a standout in the world of hybrids, proving that fuel efficiency and longevity can go hand in hand. This midsize SUV is equipped with a hybrid powertrain that has been honed over years of innovation, delivering impressive reliability.

It's not just about getting more miles per gallon; it's about getting more miles, period. The Highlander Hybrid's robust build quality and Toyota's commitment to durable,

eco-friendly technology make it a vehicle that can easily clock 250,000 miles while still sipping fuel.

Key Features:

- A hybrid powertrain that offers excellent fuel efficiency.
- Seating for up to eight passengers with a versatile interior layout.
- Advanced safety features, including Toyota Safety Sense.

6. Honda Ridgeline: 25.8% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Honda Ridgeline is an unconventional pickup that's built on a unibody frame, which it shares with the Honda Pilot. While this design might raise some eyebrows among traditional truck buyers, it contributes to the Ridgeline's smooth ride and excellent durability. Honda's reputation for reliability extends to the Ridgeline, making it one of the longest-lasting pickups you can buy.

Key Features:

- A 3.5-liter V6 engine that's both powerful and efficient.
- A unique in-bed trunk and dual-action tailgate for added versatility.
- A comfortable, car-like ride that's rare for a pickup truck.

7. Chevrolet Suburban: 22% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Chevrolet Suburban is an American icon, known for its ability to take on heavy-duty tasks without breaking a sweat. Built to serve large families, road-trippers, and anyone with serious towing needs, the Suburban's massive frame and powerful V8 engines are designed for longevity.

It's more than just a people-mover; it's a durable workhorse that's engineered to handle everything from daily commutes to cross-country hauls, making it a go-to choice for those who need a vehicle that's as reliable as it is spacious.

Key Features:

- A choice of two powerful V8 engines.
- A cavernous interior with seating for up to nine passengers.
- Excellent towing capacity, making it ideal for hauling heavy loads.

8. Toyota Avalon: 22% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Toyota Avalon is the quiet achiever in Toyota's lineup, offering a blend of luxury and longevity that's hard to beat. This full-sized sedan is built on a solid foundation, with a smooth and reliable V6 engine under the hood.

What sets the Avalon apart is its refined construction—Toyota has packed this sedan with high-quality materials and craftsmanship that ensure it remains a comfortable and dependable ride, even after years on the road. It's a car that doesn't just age gracefully; it thrives on longevity.

Key Features:

- A smooth and powerful 3.5-liter V6 engine.
- A spacious and luxurious interior with high-quality finishes.
- Advanced safety and driver assistance features.

9. Lexus GX: 20.7% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Lexus GX is where luxury meets rugged durability. Sharing much of its DNA with the Toyota 4Runner, the GX combines a body-on-frame construction with the premium touches you'd expect from a Lexus. This SUV is engineered to go the distance, whether you're cruising through city streets or tackling tough off-road trails.

The GX's blend of high-end materials, robust mechanicals, and off-road capability ensures it not only survives but thrives over the long haul, making it a top choice for those who demand both luxury and longevity from their vehicles.

Key Features:

- A 4.6-liter V8 engine that's both powerful and smooth.
- Full-time four-wheel drive with a two-speed transfer case for off-road adventures.
- A plush, high-quality interior with plenty of tech features.

10. Chevrolet Silverado 1500: 18.8% Chance of Lasting 250,000+ Miles

Why It Lasts: The Chevrolet Silverado 1500 is one of America's most popular pickups, and for good reason. It's built to handle everything from daily commuting to heavy-duty towing. The Silverado's longevity comes from its solid construction, powerful engine options, and a design that prioritizes durability.

Key Features:

- A range of engines, including a durable V8 option.
- High towing and payload capacities.
- A variety of configurations to suit different needs, from work truck to luxury hauler.

The Common Thread: Why These Vehicles Last

So, what's the secret sauce? Why do these vehicles last longer than others? There are a few key factors that these top-performing models share:

1. **Quality Engineering:** These vehicles are meticulously designed using premium materials and put through extensive testing to ensure they can withstand the rigors of everyday use. Automakers like Toyota and Lexus have built their reputations on an unwavering dedication to quality craftsmanship and

stringent quality assurance, making sure each vehicle meets their high standards before it ever hits the showroom floor.

2. **Proven Powertrains:** The engines and transmissions in these vehicles are often the result of years of refinement. They're not the flashiest or most powerful, but they're reliable, easy to maintain, and built to last.
3. **Simplicity:** While modern vehicles are becoming increasingly complex, many of the longest-lasting models keep things relatively simple. Fewer electronics and gadgets mean fewer things that can go wrong, and more robust mechanical components can withstand wear and tear better.
4. **Consistent Maintenance:** Let's not forget the role that regular maintenance plays in vehicle longevity. Owners who take care of these vehicles—following recommended service intervals, using quality parts, and addressing issues promptly—are more likely to see their cars last.
5. **Strong Resale Value:** Vehicles that are known for their durability often have strong resale values. This not only reflects their reliability but also incentivizes owners to maintain them well, knowing they can get a good return on their investment when it's time to sell.

Is It Worth Paying More for Longevity?

If you're in the market for a new vehicle and plan on keeping it for the long haul, these models are worth the investment. Sure, some of them might cost more upfront compared to less reliable options, but the long-term savings in maintenance, repairs, and the potential for high resale value make them a smart choice.

Moreover, the peace of mind that comes with driving a vehicle you know will go the distance is priceless. After all, who wants to deal with the hassle of frequent breakdowns or the stress of an unreliable car?

In the end, whether you're looking for a rugged pickup, a reliable family SUV, or a comfortable sedan, this list has something for everyone. And while Toyota and Lexus dominate the rankings, there are solid options from other automakers as well.

So, what's your top pick for a long-lasting vehicle?