



# THE RIDER REPORT

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## THE BEST-SELLING CAR IS A TRUCK

Maybe it's the plummeting oil prices. Or maybe it's the creature comforts that are being added to the insides of the cabs, but it comes as no surprise that the best-selling vehicle in America in 2014 was a truck, the Ford F-Series, with a total of 751,851 sales. The F-150 accounted for two-thirds of those sales.

As a matter of fact, the top three sellers – making up over 1.5 million sales – were pick-ups, with last year's no. 3, the Toyota Camry, the top car in the lot.

The official Top 10 list from cars.com are:

1. Ford F-Series
2. Chevrolet Silverado
3. Ram Pickup
4. Toyota Camry
5. Honda Accord
6. Toyota Corolla/Matrix
7. Nissan Altima
8. Honda CR-V
9. Honda Civic
10. Ford Fusion

The only newcomer to the list is the Ford Fusion, replacing its SUV brother the Ford Escape. ■

## The \$70 Oil Change

AS consumers are trying to squeeze every drop of gasoline to increase fuel consumption, new synthetic oils have entered the market to keep emissions low and start-ups fast, particularly in cold conditions.

The new oil is 0W-20, a synthetic blend that promises virtually no viscosity at startup. It replaces the 5W-30 and 10W-30 oils that have been so popular for so many years. The "0" is the oil's viscosity at start-up, the "W" is its winter certification and the "20" is the viscosity at higher temperatures.

The days of the \$1-\$2 can of oil is gone, and these new full-synthetic oils run closer to \$8 a quart. None of these should go in the crankcase if not

recommended by the dealer, but they have added another 1.2% improvement in fuel economy, according to Pennzoil's technical data.

Does that mean so much in a gas-gluttonous environment? Maybe not. But convenience is also a factor, and now manufacturers are suggesting 5,000- and 7,500-mile changes as opposed to the traditional 3,000-mile one.

"Every new Honda and Acura vehicle currently on sale recommends using 0W-20 oil except for the SH-AWD version of the 2013 Acura TL," said Honda spokesman Chris Martin. ■

