

THE WEEK

Mustang tops the Camaro

FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

When the Ford Mustang first appeared in 1964, it was the first of the small "personal" cars. Since then, it has undergone many evolutionary and revolutionary changes. The Chevrolet Camaro, an early imitator, has also changed much over the years.

Although there are many front-wheel-drive performance cars that offer stiff competition, the traditional Mustang and Camaro, both with rear-wheel drive, are still selling well. Recently, the auto engineers at Consumer Reports tested both.

For the test models, the engineers chose 5.0-liter V-8 versions, since the cars have made their sporty reputations on big-engine performance. Both were equipped with automatic transmissions and lots of popular options. Even so, the sticker prices were modest by today's standards. The Mustang listed for about \$14,500 and the Camaro about \$15,000.

The Ford's engine started and ran flawlessly and its gut-wrenching acceleration exhibited lots of good old-fashioned V-8 torque. The transmission was mostly very smooth-shifting. As for fuel economy, the big engine took its toll, especially when all the available power was used. You can expect about 19 miles per gallon overall.

In routine-handling tests, the Mustang proved competent and steering response was relatively quick. But snowy roads may be troublesome. The combination of the powerful V-8, front-heavy weight distribution, rear-wheel drive and wide performance

tires don't add up to good traction. In emergency-handling tests, the Mustang inspired confidence. Quick and accurate steering helped the drivers attain their fastest speed ever in the abrupt avoidance-maneuver tests. Braking was good, although stopping distances were somewhat longer than expected with the wide performance tires.

The Mustang's ride was harsh, especially on coarse pavement. Even on expressways, pavement joints and patches jarred the occupants. Expect considerable noise, too. Depending on your outlook, the growl from the engine and exhaust is either a cacophony or the song of Lorelei.

The Mustang hasn't fared well in the reliability department, but it's likely to be no less troublesome than most domestic models.

The Chevrolet Camaro is a rolling assemblage of all the day-to-day disadvantages of sporty cars: wide, low and hard to see out of. Its doors are long and heavy. And its luggage area is a bad joke. Even if acceleration is all you care about, the Mustang offers more.

The Camaro's big V-8 engine started and ran without missing a beat. The transmission shifted smoothly enough, but the shift selector was very difficult to get out of park. Fuel economy was comparable to the Mustang's. Expect about 20 mpg overall.

In routine-handling tests, the Chevrolet's handling was fairly quick and precise, although the auto engineers would have liked a bit more feel of the road from the power steering. Like the Mustang, the Camaro is not expected to have good traction in snow.

In emergency-handling tests, the Camaro was responsive enough and negotiated the abrupt avoidance maneuvers at very high speed. Braking was excellent.

The ride was very firm and jittery on most roads and the car was moderately quiet at all speeds.

But be forewarned: The Camaro's repair record has been poor.

Special milk goes down easily

By the Editors of Consumer Reports

Some 30 million to 50 million Americans risk bloating, gas, cramps and diarrhea when they drink milk or eat ice cream. Those symptoms result from a deficiency of lactase, an intestinal enzyme needed to digest milk sugar or lactose.

It's the undigested sugar that causes the intestinal problems. Although adults of all races may suffer from lactose intolerance, the problem affects a far greater percentage of non-whites than whites.

If you like milk and other dairy foods, but have trouble tolerating them, several products sold nationwide under the Lactaid name can help.

Lactaid milk is a lowfat milk treated with lactase. When Consumer Reports' food technologists tested the product, they discovered lactose levels 80 to 85 percent below those of regular milk. That's better than the 70 percent reduction claimed on the label.

But you pay a premium for Lactaid's benefit. In the New York City area, Lactaid sells for about \$1 a quart, about 33 cents more than the same dairies' regular low-fat milk.

Lactaid tasted slightly sweeter than ordinary low-fat milk and had a slightly caramelized flavor. The sweetness comes from the slightly sweeter simple sugars into which the enzyme breaks milk sugar. The caramelized flavor comes from ultrapasteurization. The milk is briefly heated to a much higher temperature than regular pasteurized milk to give it a

longer shelf life — at least six weeks in the dairy case.

Lactaid Inc. also sells Calcimilk, a low-fat, lactose-reduced milk with about two-thirds more calcium than Lactaid and other low-fat milks. And early this year the company rolled out Lactaid skim milk, fat-free and with 20 percent fewer calories than Lactaid low-fat.

Lactaid lactase drops, sold in drug and health-food stores, let you treat your own milk to cut lactose. Typically, you use five drops per quart, shake and refrigerate the milk. You must wait a day for the results. At usual refrigerator temperatures, the drops reduce milk sugar by about 70 percent after 24 hours. More time or more drops do an even more thorough job.

The product worked well in the food technologists' tests. The treated milk tasted more like regular milk than Lactaid did and adding drops is a little cheaper. It cost about \$6.25 for enough liquid to treat 30 quarts. There's also a 75-quart size (\$15.69 suggested price) and a 12-quart size (\$3.29). At those prices, the drops add between 21 to 27 cents to the price of a quart of milk.

Lactaid enzyme tablets, sold over the counter, can help when you dine out or indulge in ice cream or some other dairy product for which there is no lactose-reduced equivalent. You take the pills just before eating. The dosage varies from one-half to three tablets, depending on the meal and your system — you'll have to experiment. Prices range from about \$3 for a dozen tablets to about \$18 for 100 tablets.

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Double doors open to a grand foyer with sweeping curved staircase. The foyer spills to a sunken living room with bay window, planter shelf and fireplace with wood storage bin. Adjoining the living room is an octagonal shaped dining room with wide windows on four sides - perfect for formal entertaining. The kitchen is a gourmet's delight, with centre preparation island, long peninsular counter, walk-in pantry and breakfast bay. The large sunken family room is separated from the hallway and kitchen by a low, open railing. A large laundry room, off the two car garage, has ample space for a sewing station.

The open staircase ascends to a railed gallery which views the foyer below. The master bedroom features a spacious walk-in closet and ensuite with raised whirlpool spa, his and hers vanity and shower. The four additional bedrooms, two with bay windows share a main bathroom with twin vanity and soaking tub.

The finished floor area of this exciting home is 3,254 square feet.

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