

Firms had been working independently

Ford, Toyota teaming up to work on hybrid system

Ford and Toyota—the world's two leading manufacturers of hybrid vehicles—have announced they will equally collaborate on the development of an advanced new hybrid system for light truck and SUV customers.

The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the product development collaboration, with the formal agreement expected by next year.

Both companies have been working independently on their own future-generation rear-wheel drive hybrid systems.

The two now have committed to collaborate as equal partners on a new hybrid system for light trucks and SUVs. Ford and Toyota believe that their collaboration will allow them to bring these hybrid technologies to customers sooner and more affordably than either company could have accomplished alone.

Specifically, Ford and Toyota will:

- Jointly develop as equal partners a new rear-wheel drive hybrid system and component technology for light trucks and SUVs

- Independently integrate the new hybrid system in their future vehicles separately

For years, both Ford and Toyota have been working independently on similar new rear-wheel-drive hybrid systems aimed at delivering higher fuel economy in light trucks and SUVs. When the two companies began discussing this potential collaboration, they discovered how quickly they were able to find common ground.

This rear-wheel-drive hybrid system will be based on an all-new architecture to deliver the capability truck and SUV customers demand while providing greater fuel economy.

While the rear-wheel-drive hybrid system will share common technology and components, Ford and Toyota will individually integrate the system into their own vehicles. Each company also will determine the calibration and performance dynamics characteristics of their light pickups and SUVs.

—Metroland Media
Carguide Magazine

You don't always get what you pay for, especially when it comes to insurance

Are You Paying Too Much?

The motto "you get what you pay for" used to be true of most things, but the times, they are changin', and this is no longer true for many things, most notably car insurance. In fact, you could be paying hundreds, or even thousands of dollars more than you should for your coverage.

How is this possible? It is somewhat complicated to explain, but, to sum it up: Insurance companies base their rates on their experience with similar driver profiles and cars. Since no two companies' experiences are exactly the same, it is rare that different companies will give you the same potential insurance premium for your profile and car.

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Experience Counts

It has been statistically proven that drivers over 50 years of age have fewer accidents and tickets than the average, and this means that there are more potential savings to be found for more experienced drivers. In fact, some companies actually specialize in serving the mature market, so it's definitely worth comparing rates. It's also important to check your rates with InsuranceHotline.com yearly since a company's rates can change quarterly. The company that gave you the best rate last year may not be able to provide the lowest quote again this year.

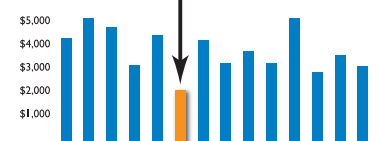
Loyalty May Not Pay

If you are getting a loyalty discount you might be thinking that you are better off staying with your current insurance provider. This might be true, but it's impossible to be certain without doing some research. You just might find that the potential savings far outweigh any loyalty discount being offered. Once again, it's important for the mature driver to shop around, especially if you have been with your current provider for a while—they might not offer special rates that take advantage of your good driving habits.

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HONDA DAILY NEWS

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